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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GRAND CHAPTER

OF

ROYAL ARCH MASONS

OF CANADA

AT THE FORTIETH ANNUAL CONVOCATION

1898 1898

Held in the Masonic Hall, City of Toronto

Wednesday, January 26th, A.D. 1898, A I. 2428, A.L. 5898

ORDERED TO BE READ IN ALL CHAPTERS AND PRESERVED

ADDRESS:

M. WALSH, INGERSOLL,
Grand Z.

THOS. SARGANT, TORONTO,
Grand Scribe F.

Grand Chapter of Canada.

PROCEEDINGS.

FORTIETH ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CANADA, HELD IN THE MASONIC HALL, CITY OF TORONTO, ON WEDNESDAY, THE 26TH JANUARY, A.D. 1898, A.L. 2428.

PRESENT.

M. E. Comp.	M. Walsh	Grand Z.	} Grand Council on The Throne.
R. " "	W. G. Reid	Grand H.	
R. " "	G. F. Shepley	Grand J.	
M. " "	Thomas Sargant	Grand Scribe E.	
R. " "	David Taylor	as Grand Scribe N.	
R. " "	E. W. Case	Grand Principal Sojourner.	
R. " "	Hugh Murray	Grand Treasurer.	
R. " "	S. W. Ray	as Grand Registrar.	
" "	G. J. Scott	as Grand 1st Asst. Sojourner.	
V. " "	William Partlo	Grand 2nd Asst. Sojourner.	
R. E. "	James B. Nixon	Grand Lecturer.	
E. "	H. Wellbanks	as Grand Sword Bearer.	
" "	John Sinclair	Grand Master of 1st Veil.	
" "	J. S. Lovell	as Grand Master of 2nd Veil.	
" "	W. Boardman	as Grand Master of 3rd Veil.	
" "	James A. Fraser	as Grand Master of 4th Veil.	
" "	C. J. Wensley	Grand Standard Bearer.	
" "	W. F. Mitchell	as Grand Dir. of Ceremonies.	
" "	J. Hamilton	Grand Organist.	
" "	Robert Scott	as Grand Pursuivant.	
" "	S. Dubber	as Grand Steward.	
" "	William Riddell	Grand Steward.	
" "	H. J. Johnston	as Grand Steward.	
V. E. "	D. Robertson	Grand Steward.	
"	J. H. Pritchard	Grand Janitor.	

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	Robert Scott, Petrolea	London	District,	No. 1
R. " "	Peter H. Cox, Paris	Wilson	" "	3
R. " "	R. Mann, Orangeville	Wellington	" "	4
R. " "	A. G. Horwood, Toronto	Toronto	" "	8
R. " "	Isaac Huber, Bracebridge	Georgian	" "	9
R. " "	R. E. Wood, Peterboro'	Ontario	" "	10

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

R. E. Comp.	W. B. McArthur, Ottawa	Alabama.
R. " "	A. Shaw, Kingston	Connecticut.
M. E. Comp.	R. B. Hungerford	Georgia.
R. E. Comp.	C. W. Postlethwaite, Toronto	Iowa.
M. E. Comp.	Thomas Sargant, Toronto	Kentucky.
R. E. Comp.	B. Allen, Toronto	Maine.
R. " "	S. A. Congdon, Dunnville	Maryland.
M. E. Comp.	John E. Harding, Stratford	Massachusetts.
R. E. Comp.	D. F. Macwatt, Barrie	Missouri.
M. E. Comp	J. Ross Robertson, Toronto	Nebraska.
M. " "	J. J. Mason, Hamilton	Nevada.
R. E. Comp.	John S. Dewar	N'w Hampshire
R. " "	James Wilson, Toronto	North Carolina
R. " "	John Moodie, Hamilton	Nova Scotia.
R. " "	J. Baker, Stratford	Oregon.
R. " "	M. Walsh, Ingersoll	Rhode Island.
R. " "	J. K. Kerr, Toronto	Scotland.
R. " "	E. T. Malone, Toronto	Texas.
R. " "	Alexander Patterson, Toronto	Virginia.
R. " "	J. B. Nixon, Toronto	Vermont.
R. " "	David Taylor, Ottawa	West Virginia.

A constitutional number of Chapters being represented by their qualified officers, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada was opened in Ample Form at 2 p m.

R. E. Comp. William Roaf, from the Committee on Credentials of Representatives, reported that there are 93 warranted Chapters and 2 U. D. on the roll of Grand Chapter, of which number 63 were represented by the following Companions :

No. 1. *Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui, Kingston.*

R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, P.Z. and Proxy, Ex. Comp Geo. Somerville, P. Z.

No. 2. *The Hiram, Hamilton.*

E. Comp. Fred. Walter, P. Z., Geo. Moore.

No. 3. *St. John's, London.*

R. E. Comp. J. S. Dewar, P.Z., E. Comp. W. J. Corson, Z.

No. 4. *St. Andrew and St. John, Toronto.*

R. E. Comp. W. Simpson, Ex. Comps Joseph King, Spencer Love, James Glanville, J. B. Cole, Thomas Hills, V. E. Comp. C. A. Matthews, P. Z's., E. Comp. J. W. Jones, Z., R. W. Clewlo, H., R. E. Comp. J. K. Kerr, P. G. J.

No. 5. *St. George's, London.*

R. Ex. Comp. R. B. Hungerford, P. G. Z., Ex. Comp. J. W. Butler, P. Z., Ex. Comp. A. A. Campbell, P. Z., and Proxy.

No. 6. *St. John's, Hamilton.*

R. Ex. Comps. W. G. Reid, W. Birrell, M. Ex. Comp. J. J. Mason, R. Ex. Comps. John Moodie, Wm. Gibson, Ex. Comp. W. J. McAllister, Hugh Murray, A. Payne, P.Z's., W. Teale, Z.' J. J. Wilson, J.

No. 7. *Moira, Belleville.*

E. Comp. W. McKeown, Z.

No. 8. *King Solomon, Toronto.*

M. E. Comps. K. Tully, T. Sargant, J. Ross Robertson, R. E Comp. J. B Nixon, Alex. Patterson, E. T. Malone, Ex. Comp. N T. Lyon, W. H. Woodstock, J. S. Lovell, P Z's., E. Comp. Malcolm Gibbs, P. H., W. A. Lyon, H., Wm. Porteus, Z.

No. 15. *Wawanosh, Sarnia.*

Ex. Comp. James Woods, P. Z., and Proxy.

No. 16. *Carleton, Ottawa.*

R. Ex. Comp. W. B. McArthur, P. Z., and Proxy, David Taylor, P. Z.

No. 18. *Oxford, Woodstock.*

Ex. Comp. J. Hamilton, Z., G. Whitelaw, P. Z.

No. 19. *Mount Moriah, St. Catharines.*

Comp. H. J. Johnston, Z.

No. 22. *Grenville, Prescott.*

R. E. Comp. J. F. Graham, P. Z., and Proxy.

No. 24. *Tecumseh, Stratford.*

M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding, R. Ex. Comp. J. Baker, Ex. Comp. C. McLellan, P. Z's , and Proxy.

No. 27. *Manitou, Collingwood.*

Ex. Comp. W. B Sanders, P. Z., and Proxy.

No. 28. *Pentalpha, Oshawa.*

Ex. Comp. Robt. McCaw, Geo. J. Scott, A. E. Henry, P. Z's., John Lander, Z.

No. 29. *McCallum, Dunnville.*

R. Ex. Comp. L. A. Congdon, R. G. W. Connolly, P. Z's., J. B. Sheehan, Z.

No. 31. *Prince Edward, Picton.*

Ex. Comp. G. M. Rose, Z., V. E. Comp. H. Wellbanks, R. E. Comp. E. W. Case, P. Z.

No. 32. *Waterloo, Galt.*

Ex. Comp. W. F. Mitchell, Z.

No. 34. *Signet, Barrie.*

R. Ex. Comp. D. F. Macwatt, P. Z., and Proxy.

No. 35. *Keystone, Whitby.*
Ex. Comp. F. Mudge, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 36. *Corinthian, Peterborough.*
R. Ex. Comp. R. E. Wood, P. Z., E. Comp. J. M. Shaw, Z.

No. 37. *Victoria, Port Hope.*
Ex. Comp. W. G. Coulter, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 40. *Guelph, Guelph.*
R. Ex. Comp. R. Mahony, P. Z.
Ex. Comp. R. Mahony, Jr. Z.

No. 41. *Harris, Ingersoll.*
M. Ex. Comp. M. Walsh, P. Z., Ex. Comp. W. Partlo, Z.

No. 45. *Excelsior, Colborne.*
Ex. Comp. J. R. Fitzgerald, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 48. *St. John's, Cobourg.*
R. Ex. Comps. R. J. Craig, A. Hargraft, P. Z's. Ex. Comp. L. E. Horning, Z , A. H. Reynar, J.

No. 50. *Saugeen, Mitchell.*
M. Ex. Comp. J. E. Harding, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 52. *Prince Rupert, Winnipeg.*
M. Ex. Comp John Ross Robertson, P. Z, and Proxy.

No 53. *Brnce, Petrolia.*
R. Ex. Comp. Robt. Scott, Ex. Comp. John Sinclair, P. Z.

No. 54. *Palestine, St. Thomas.*
Ex. Comp. S. Dubbur, P. Z., H. Roe, Z.

No. 55. *Niagara, Niagara.*
Ex. Comp. J. C. Garrett, Z.

No. 59. *Sussex, Brockville.*
Ex. Comp. Jonathan Green, Z.

No. 60. *Doric, Newmarket.*
R. Ex. Comp. P. T. Lee, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 62. *York, Eglington.*
M. Ex. Comp. T. Sargant, R. Ex. Comp. W. Roaf, J. B. Nixon. Ex. Comps. G. H. C. Brooke, D. Robertson, R. W. Hull, W. E. Saline, Geo. Reeves, J. Soutby, H.

No. 65. *St. Paul's, Toronto.*
R. Ex. Comp B. Allen, F. J. Manley, C. W. Postlewaithe, Aubrey White, Fred Sparling, A. D. Ponton, W. G. Eakins, George F. Shepley, W H. Best, John McKnight, P. Z's., F. H. Harcourt, Z

No. 67. *Enterprise, Harriston.*
V. Ex. Comp. Fred Mann, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 70. *Grand River, Bracebridge.*
Ex. Comp. Isaac Huber, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 72. *Keystone, Stirling.*
R.E. Comp. C. G. Wensley, P. Z., W. Boardman, Z.

No. 73. *Erie, Ridgetown.*
Ex. Comp. John Sale, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 75. *St. Clair, Milton.*
Ex. Comp. James Fraser, P. Z., C. Huff, Z.

No. 76. *Mount Nebo, Niagara Falls, S.*
Ex. Comp. William Baker, J.

No. 77. *Occident, Toronto.*
M. Ex. Comp. T. Sargant, R. Ex. Comp. J. W. Hickson, E., Comp. W. Riddle, A. G. Horwood, James Wilson, P. Z's., Ex. Comp. J. J. Thompson, Z., Geo. K. Clemens, J.

No. 79. *Orient, Toronto.*
M. E. Comp. T. Sargant, R. Ex. J. B. Nixon, P.Z's.

No. 80. *Ark, Windsor.*
Ex. Comp. John Sale, P. Z., G. R. Anderson, Z.

No. 83. *Ionic, Orangeville*
M. E. Comp. T. Sargant, R. Ex. Comp. J. Wilson, R. Mann. E. Comp. J. C. Browne, Robert Irvine, P. Z's., E. N. Pike, Z.

No. 82. *Shuniah, Port Arthur.*
R. E. Comp. S. W. Ray, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 86. *Macpherson, Meaford.*
R. E. Comp. Isaac Huber, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 88. *MacNabb, Dresden.*
R. Ex. Comp. J. M. Sharpe, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 91. *Antiquity, Toronto.*
M. Ex. Comp. T. Sargant, R. Ex. Comp. G. J. Bennett. G. G Rowe, C. F. Mansell, P. Z's., J. C. Gray, H.

No. 94. *Midland, Lindsay.*
R. Ex. Comp. B. Dingle, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 95. *Tuscan, Sudbury.*
M. E. Comp. T. Sargant, R. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett, P. Z's.

No. 98. *Vancouver, Vancouver.*
M. Ex. Comp. T. Sargant, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 100. *St. Lawrence, Brockville.*
Ex. Comp. B. J. Sanders, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 103. *St. John's, North Bay.*
R. Ex. Comp. D. F. McWatt, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 104, *White Oak, Oakville.*
Ex. Comp. Wm Speers, W. A. Ferrah, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 105, *Signet, Winnipeg.*
R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, Proxy.

No. 106, *Alberta, Calgary.*
M. Ex. Comp. T. Sargant, Proxy.

No. 114, *Bonnechere, Renfrew.*
E. Comp. D. Barr, P. Z. and Proxy.
R. E. Comp. W. Hay, P. Z.

No. 115, *Brant, Paris.*
R. Ex. Comp. P. H. Cox, P. Z.

No 116, *Maple, Carleton Place.*
Ex. Comp. John D. Taylor, Z.

No. 117, *Berlin, Berlin.*
Ex. Comp. A. Oelschlager, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 118, *North Star, Edmonton.*
M. E. Comp. T. Sargant, Proxy.

No. 119, *King Cyrus, Leamington.*
Ex. Comp. John Sale, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 121, *Wascana, Regina.*
Ex. Comp. J. M Young, Z.

Twenty-nine Chapters are not represented. No. of names registered, 137. No. of votes entitled to be cast, 291.

On motion of R. E. Comp. W. Roaf, seconded by R. E. Comp. A. G. Horwood, the report of the Committee on Credentials of Representatives was received and adopted.

The M. E. Grand Z. granted permission for the admission of all Royal Arch Masons in good standing, during the session of Grand Chapter as visitors.

The Grand Scribe E. read the rules and regulations for the government of Grand Chapter during business. The Grand Scribe E. commenced to read the minutes of the proceedings of the Thirty-ninth Annual Convocation, held in the City of Toronto, on the 27th day of January, A.D., 1897, A. I, 2427, when it was moved by R. E Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. E. Comp. G F. Shepley, and

Resolved, That as the proceedings of the last Annual Convocation, held on the 27th day of January, 1897, have been printed, and copies thereof sent to all the Chapters under this jurisdiction, the recorded minutes be considered as read, and the same be now confirmed.

The M. Ex. Grand Z then read the following

ADDRESS.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Chapter of Canada, Greeting:

Before proceeding to lay before you a statement of my official acts, during the last year—the first of my occupancy of the Grand East—allow me to congratulate the Craft in Toronto, on having obtained and being able to provide us with such very handsome and commodious rooms, as those we have met in, and I trust that harmony, prosperity and happiness will be your portion in these splendid premises, the comfort and elegance of which have been increased by the open hand of M. Ex Comp John Ross Robertson, by timely gifts of furnishings and appliances and the portraits of some of the old Past Grand Masters, which adorn this room.

The First Convocation under the new Constitution.

As you will remember our last Convocation was the first under the new constitution.

As a new departure, and as an experiment, it was naturally looked upon with considerable interest, and when we saw so creditable and representative an attendance last January, of those who have the best interest of the Royal Craft at heart, it was felt that we had made no mistake in changing the time of meeting, and I look forward to the future with considerable confidence, to prove that the change was in the best interests of Royal Arch Masonry, as giving time and opportunity for the discussion and settlement of all questions relating to the efficiency, prosperity and dignity of this Grand Chapter.

Visits.

I found by the addresses of my predecessor, M. Ex. Comp. Robertson, and the reports of the Grand Superintendents, that there was a number of the Chapters either dead or dormant, and as it was impossible for me to perform the Herculean task of my predecessor and visit all the Chapters in Ontario, I decided to devote my time to those which most needed help and encouragement, of course visiting such others of the Chapters as requested my presence.

Altogether I have visited fifteen Chapters, including by invitation, those of Windsor, Petrolea, Stratford, Kincardine and all west of Toronto, except Port Hope; leaving the east for this year; the following is a short statement of these visits, what I found, and to a certain extent the result of those visits:

Mt. Horeb, Brantford.

I visited this Chapter on the 5th of March last and installed the 1st and 3rd Principals and other officers—I found an attendance of only 10—the 2nd Principal was absent—this Chapter had done nothing for about a year and the reasons given me for this state of things in what was not long ago one of the most active and prosperous Chapters in the District, were—1st, that the Z, did not attend regularly and conferred none of the degrees—2nd, that political matters, had engaged the attention of the Companions to the exclusion of the Chapter and its interests—with a Z. who allowed his OB. to sit so lightly on his heart and politics absorbing the attention of the Companions it is of course little wonder that the Chapter was nearly dormant—however the faithful few, who met me promised to stick to the "ship" until she was again put out to sea under full sail and well manned, and I am pleased to see by the Grand Superintendent's report, that their promise has been pretty well fulfilled, for there have been eight convocations and nine candidates admitted during the year.

Ark Chapter—Windsor.

I visited this Chapter by invitation, on the 8th of March last and I found Rt Ex. Comp. Willison at his post there—the R. A. Degree was conferred on a candidate, and was well and correctly done according to our Ritual—that of the Z. Ex. Comp. Sale particularly so.

There was a large attendance, about 120, including some 12 or 15 Companions from Detroit, who enjoyed the excellent banquet and toasts which followed the work.

On my arrival in Windsor I found a rather uncomfortable little matter facing the Chapter that evening, which threatened to mar the harmony of the proceedings, arising out of an objection made to the advancement of one of the candidates—with the aid, however, of some advice and explanation of the rights of the parties, and the good sense and desire for the welfare of Royal Arch Masonry on the part of those interested, the difficulty was amicably arranged.

Minnewawa—Parkhill.

This was one of the Chapters reported weak, and I went to them on 16th of March, and there met Rt. Ex. Comp Scott of Petrolia, the Grand Superintendent of that district. The attendance was about 12—there being no candidate the R. A. degree was exemplified up to the mystical lecture, when two of the Sojourners had to leave for the train. Here two explanations were given for the cause of the stagnancy of this Chapter —one was the invasion of the jurisdiction by the Chapter at Sarnia and the other, that all the Principals were non-resident and so the attendance depends to a great extent on the weather and the roads With the aid of Rt. Ex. Comp. Scott, the question of jurisdiction was arranged, so as to remove that difficulty.

I notice by the report of Rt. Ex. Comp. Scott that three candidates have been admitted—the Convocations have been more regular, and that the prospects are improving, so that with Blue Lodges at Thedford, Arkona and Forest to draw material from, we have a right to expect a decided improvement in this Chapter this year.

Bruce Chapter—Petrolia.

On the 6th of May, at the request of this Chapter, I visited it and met Rt. Ex. Comp. Scott there ; about 50 Companions were present, including eight or ten from Sarnia. Two teams of candidates were exalted, and the work was very good and correct all through except the 2nd Principal, who, for the first time, gave his part of the degree.

This is Rt. Ex. Comp Scott's own Chapter and under the supervision of Ex. Comp Sinclair the Z, and Rt. Ex. Comp. Scott, Bruce Chapter is one of the most prosperous and harmonious in the jurisdiction.

A well ordered and enjoyable banquet followed the work. It is only about four years ago that this Chapter was in such a dead condition that it was asked to send in its warrant ; but the 2nd Companion I have mentioned, assisted by others, faced the emergency and have shewn what three or four enthusiastic and capable Companions can do in a poor Chapter, and I commend this Chapter to the other weak Chapters, members of our body Masonic, as an example to be imitated.

Tecumseh—Stratford.

This is the Mother Chapter of M. Ex. Comp. Harding, and pursuant to request I visited it on the 1st of June and met some 30 or 40 Comps from Stratford, St. Marys, Mitchell, and the surrounding country, among them Ex. Comp Harding.

Three Candidates were exalted, and I was privileged to hear and see correct, excellent and impressive work done, especially that of the Z.

The Companions of this Chapter are particularly well housed, both in the Chapter room and ante rooms, and banqueting room, all of them being commodious and elegant.

Palestine—St. Thomas.

At my request I met the Companions of this Chapter on the 8th of July, and witnessed the R. A. degree—about 18 or 20 were present.

I found the work here incorrectly and poorly given, all through, a good deal of the old work having been interlarded with the new.

I notice by the Grand Superintendent's, report that only 5 Candidates were admitted this year, which is not a good showing for a city.

I was told harmony prevailed, and their rooms are new and handsome, and so I conclude, their difficulty is the too common one, want of energy.

Macpherson—Meaford.

This Chapter is set down in the reports of last year as about dead, and I accordingly visited it on the 13th of July, and met Rt. Ex. Comp. Huber there.

On examining the books and talking over the state of the Chapter, I found a membership of 23—only 9 however in the town, only $20 dues were outstanding, and their Grand Chapter dues fully paid up, their rent was paid up to Sept. 1897, and they had insurance for $350 There had been, up to my visit in '97, 4 regular and 3 emergent Convocations, in '96, 2 ; in 95, 13 ; in 94, 4 ; and in 93, 2 ; This state of things did not shew a dead Chapter by any means, and the Companions complained rather bitterly of the damaging reports which were read against them in Grand Chapter, and said these reports were founded on rumours, not on personal knowledge or visitation.

I found, however, that the Chapter was not able to pro-

cure a quorum for my predecessor and the Grand Superintendent when they desired to visit them, which afforded some ground for the adverse reports.

The Mark degree was given by the Officers of the Chapter and was below the average, except that of the W. M. and S. Overseer

The trouble with this Chapter as with some others, is that only 9 Comps reside in the town, and so the regular Convocations of it, are at the mercy of the elements.

I see by the Grand Superintendent's report that matters have improved and that there have been 9 Convocations and 3 Candidates admitted this year, the prospects therefore are brighter for this year, and I look for a revival of this Chapter.

Manitou—Collingwood.

I visited this Chapter on my way back from Meaford, Rt. Ex. Comp. Huber with me; Rt. Ex. Comp. Toner, Past Gd. Supt. was also present.

As this Chapter had "called off" for July and August, and as my notice was rather short, there was no Candidate, but the Mark degree was exemplified. The regular Overseers were not present, and so their part of the work was not good; the other Officers however gave correct work. The attendance was about 20, and the usual refreshments were served at the close of the work.

Exeter—Exeter.

This was another of the dormant Chapters on our roll, and I visited it on the 15th of Sept.

I found only 8 Comps. there, and there had been no work or meeting for a year. There had been only one to two Convocations a year since '94, although the Chapter had three Lodges to draw from, its own, and Lucan and Hensall.

After discussing the situation, I asked the Companions to send out and endeavour to make up a quorum, this was done and I acted as Z., and we opened the Chapter. Ex. Comp. Acret was the only Officer who knew anything of opening or closing.

I was informed there were no dissensions to cause the apathy, they were not much in debt, and as I have stated, they had three Lodges to draw from, on pressing the matter home the Companions admitted that the trouble was just lack of

interest and energy. I pointed out that their future depended on themselves, and that only one result would follow if the Chapter were left as it was.

I see by the Grand Superintendent's report that only two Convocations have been held, and no admissions, and he recommends that the Warrant be surrendered.

Havelock—Kincardine.

I went on to this Chapter next day and on the way up met Rt. Ex. Comp. Sharpe, Grand Superintendent, Rt. Ex. Comp. Martyn, though somewhat "under the weather," was also present, and it was evident that his enthusiasm and tact were elements for years past in the welfare and success of this Chapter.

There were about 22 Comps. present. among them, Rt. Ex. Comp. Morton, Past Gd. Supt.; Ex. Comp. Vanstone and others from a distance.

Two Companions were exalted, and the work was correctly and impressively done, the "material" in this Chapter struck me very favourably and appeared to be above the average in quality and standing.

The "inner man" was attended to, after the Convocation, a noticeable feature of which was the appropriate and striking mottoes in connection with the toasts.

Doric—Newmarket.

I went up to this Chapter on the 13th of this month, to see for myself how they stood and what if any thing could be done to get it on its feet again.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Horwood, Grand Superintendent of the District, and Rt. Ex. Comp. Lee, Past Grand Registrar were also there, and gave us what assistance they could. There were eight Companions of the Chapter present; the Chapter was declared open, and the situation was then discussed. Rt. Ex. Comp. T. Brunton, as Z. This Chapter has the same difficulty to contend with as Parkhill and Exeter, there are only nine or ten Companions in town.

I found that they were about two years dues in arrear to the Grand Chapter, and about $30 rent, so that the financial situation is not sufficient to account for its want of life The Chapter has besides the Lodge in town, two Lodges to obtain members from, one at Aurora and another at Maple, near

Aurora, both on the line of Railway, there is therefore no good cause for the present state of the Chapter. I pointed this out to the Companions and Officers, and urged that a united and genuine effort be made to resuscitate the Chapter. The H. and J. at first though it was useless, but finally promised to do so, and they were all assured of the assistance of Rt. Ex. Companion Horwood and Lee. The next two months will therefore decide the question.

In attempting to infuse life into this Chapter, and that at Exeter, my fate may be that of the Christian of Comp. Kipling who attempted to "hustle" the man of the East.

"It is not good for the Christian white
To hustle the Aryan brown,
For the Christian riles and the heathen smiles,
And he wears the Christian down;
And the end of the fight
Is a tombstone white,
With the name of the late deceased,
And the epitaph drear,
'A fool lies here
Who tried to hustle the East.'"

Chapters of Instruction.

There were 4 Chapters of Instruction held during the year, viz., London, Toronto, Leamington and Port Hope, I attended at London, Toronto and Port Hope.

London.

This was held on the 26th of Nov., the 3 Degrees were worked, there were about 35 present from the city, Petrolia, Parkhill and some other visitors.

The Mark degree was given by Ex. Comp. Findlay and the Officers of St. John's Chapter, London.

The Z. was well up in his part of the degree, but was indifferently supported by his other Officers, the work on the whole was up to the average.

The Sarnia Comps were to have given the M. E. M., but did not attend to do so, and at the request of the Principals, I acted as W. M., and with the other Officers, gave this degree.

In the evening there was a better attendance, about 75 being present, when the R. A. Degree was worked by the Z. of St. George Chapter and his Officers, the work of this degree was above the average, especially that of the Ex. Z. Comp. Spittal.

The efficient Grand Superintendent of the London District, Rt. Ex. Comp. Scott, of Petrolia, was present both afternoon and evening, and in the evening M. Ex. Comp. Hungerford, Rt. Ex. Comp. McWhinney and Smythe gave us "the light of their countenance."

After the Chapter closed I detained the Principals who were present and gave and explained the secrets of their respective Chairs, which proved to be useful, as there and in other places I found these Officers very rusty in connection with this part of their work, which of course is important at the Installation of Officers.

I regret to say that a complaint was made by the Officers of St. John's Chapter at this time regarding the improper use of the Ballot. It was said to me that some of the Companions of that Chapter had rejected two good candidates, with no Masonic reason to justify them, in other words private pique and malice had been at work in these cases, and if so, these Companions will have the satisfaction of knowing from experience, that unless such practices be stopped, there is no surer way of killing a Chapter and bringing discredit on our Royal Craft.

Toronto.

On the 30th of Nov I attended the Chapter of Instruction at Toronto, all the degrees were worked, in the afternoon and evening, the attendance was, of course, good. King Solomon Chapter opened and closed. St. Andrew and St. John gave the Mark which, with the exception of two or three trifling errors, was well and correctly done.

Orient Chapter gave the M. E. M., and proved that they had mastered this degree.

St. Paul's gave the R. A degree, and I saw no error, except one, the rest of their work was correct, impressive and exceedingly well given. In many Chapters we find some or many of the Officers correct, and their work well done, in this Chapter every Officer knew his work, and gave it audibly and impressively.

Rt. Ex. Companion Shepley and Horwood and Grand Scribe E. Sargant were present on this occasion, and I am able to congratulate the Grand Superintendent and those who aided him, on the success of this Chapter of Instruction.

Port Hope.

On the 21st of Dec. I attended this Chapter of Instruction.

The 3 degrees were worked in the afternoon and evening, the attendance was large at both afternoon and evening, and rather better than usual in the afternoon.

I was struck with the handsome and well appointed room devoted to the Craft in this place.

Corinthian Chapter of Peterborough, with Ex. Comp. Walkey as Z, and his Officers worked the Mark degree. There were 3 or 4 minor errors and, with these exceptions, the work was above the average in correctness and impressiveness.

Pentalpha Chapter of Oshawa, with Ex. Comp. Henry as W. M. and his officers conferred the M. E M. degree, and it was correct and well done all through.

Victoria Chapter, of Port Hope, worked the R. A. degree in the evening. The work was up to the average in correctness.

Here as in London and Toronto I detained the Principals and instructed them in their Chair work. In this case, as in other Chapters of Instruction, the Chapters who needed the occasion the most, I was informed, were not represented, or poorly so by their Officers. This is to be regretted, for these are the occasions when and where the correct work, as settled by the Ritual and the Grand Officers, can be seen and explained for their particular benefit.

Besides Rt. Ex. Comp. Wood there were present four past Grand Superintendents, Rt. Ex. Comps. Quinlan, and Dr. Might, of Port Hope; Hargraft, of Cobourg, Morrow, of Peterborough and Comp. Helm.

Taking it all round, this was as good a Chapter of Instruction as I saw, and Rt. Ex. Comp. Wood, of Peterborough and the District are to be congratulated on its success.

It is only fair to state that all the above mentioned Convocations, good fellowship and the social feast were given scope at well ordered banquets.

Reunion at Hamilton.

By invitation, I had the pleasure of attending a well established and time honored feature of the Hamilton Companions, a reunion of the Past Zs. of St. John's Chapter there. Besides the election of their Officers, the R. A. degree was worked by the Past Zs. of this Chapter.

The "Princes of the People" were unusually well represented on this occasion, there being three Past Grand Zs. present, viz, M. Ex. Comps. Mason, Harding and Sargant.

Most Ex. Comps. Mason and Rt. Ex. Comp. Murray took part in the work, also Rt. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, Grand J.

These reunions are commendable, because they keep alive the interest of the Past Zs. in the work and Chapter, and keep them in touch with the new Officers.

After the work of the Chapter, there followed a very enjoyable banquet, which was well attended. The old mingled with the new, and during the speeches, bye gone experiences and old time reminiscences were revived, and the heart of the past was opened to the young members and others.

"Old times were gone,
Old manners changed,
A stranger fills
The Stuart's throne.

The Scotch Chapters.

Shortly after my election last January, I received from Rt. Ex. Comp. H. Watson, of Vancouver, letters referring to the desirability of arranging with the two Chapters at Victoria and Nanaimo, to cast in their lot with us.

I felt that it would be "a consummation devoutly to be wished," and I instructed our Grand Superintendent Watson to approach these Chapters on the subject.

Our Superintendent lost no time in doing so, and after consulting informally with the officers of these two Chapters, they came to the conclusion to remain as they are for the present, which I regret.

As some of you may remember, one or both of these Chapters talked of applying to their Mother Grand Chapter for Warrants for other Chapters under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, when our Grand Superintendent sent in a protest, after which nothing more was done

It was suggested that I should go out there and see if the amalgamation could be brought about, and at the same time visit the Chapters in Manitoba and the North-West, and it was pointed out that in neither of these parts of our jurisdiction have the Chapters ever seen a Grand Z. of Canada; but I could not see that the good to be accomplished was sure enough to warrant so large an expenditure of our funds, and I accordingly declined.

Warrants.

In April last I signed the following new Warrants:—

Berlin Chapter.....at Berlin.....No. 117.
North Star Chapter..at Edmonton...No. 118.
King Cyrus Chapter .at Leamington..No. 119.

I also issued a duplicate Warrant to Carleton Chapter at Ottawa, to replace the original one, which was destroyed by fire along with the rest of their furniture and paraphernalia, on the 3rd of December, 1896.

Dispensations to New Chapters

In April last I issued Dispensations to Kootenay Chapter at Kaslo, B. C., and Wascana Chapter at Regina, N.W.T.

In August last, under a Dispensation from me, Rt. Ex. Comp. H. Watson, of Vancouver, went out to Kaslo and installed their officers and instituted the Chapter, and I notice by the return of Rt. Ex. Comp. Watson, that Kaslo has had 7 Convocations and admitted 9 Candidates since the installation, and as their admission fee is $50, it is likely this Chapter will flourish.

Wascana at Regina was instituted by Comp. Markley, in August last, and has had 4 Convocations and admitted 5 Candidates.

Our Centennial.

As you know, the 7th of June last was the Centennial of Royal Arch Masonry in our jurisdiction and it was celebrated by the Companions at Kingston, which is practically the birth-place of our Royal Craft, with impressive and appropriate ceremonies.

I was unable to attend at Kingston, where I was invited, because my own Chapter in Ingersoll was also celebrating the day.

In looking back over the 100 years of our Royal Craft, it is evident that in all material aspects the Craft has made enormous progress: progress in numbers, in wealth, in intelligence, in the number and elegance of our Masonic Halls; but I sometimes doubt if we are better Masons than they of the old time; they were then "few in the land," and I think practised the 5 points of F., in deed and in act, better than we of the present day.

> "They hadn't good regalia,
> An' their Lodge was old an' bare;
> But they knew the Ancient Landmarks,
> And they kept them to a hair."
>
> —*Kipling.*

Foreign Representatives.

In November last I received a letter from Rt. Ex. Comp. Wingate, of Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A., Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of that State, asking me to nominate a Representative for that Grand Chapter from ours. The term of Rt. Ex. Comp. Bennett having expired by effluxion of time, and he not desiring to be re-appointed, I had pleasure in nominating Rt. Ex Comp. C W. Postlethwaite, of this city, as such Representative.

Re New York Brother.

In March last I received a letter from Most Ex. Comp. John Webb, Jr., Grand High Priest of the State of New York, asking my permission, that the Chapter at Kingston give its consent to the Chapter at Cape Vincent, N.Y., to confer the Capitular Degrees on Bro. William B. Reid, Bro. Reid being a member of Lodge No. 688, New York.

I accordingly replied to M. Ex. Comp. Webb, that I would do so, and I instructed M. Ex. Comp. Sargant to write Kingston, the necessary permission being given, I acceded to the request of the Grand Chapter of New York.

The Indian Famine Fund.

As you all know, there went out from India last winter a cry for aid to that thrice stricken land, groaning under a weight of pestilence, famine and earthquakes.

As our Grand Chapter had, at our last Convocation, voted $1,000 to the Sick Children's Hospital—a most deserving object—I could not see my way to ask Grand Chapter for a grant to India, similar to that given by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. I therefore issued a Circular to the Chapters in our jurisdiction, asking them to forward to R. Ex. Comp. Murray, such sums as they were able and willing to give.

The following Chapters responded and the total, $157.25, was sent by R. Ex. Comp. Murray to the Treasurer of the fund at Calcutta—Sir Francis McLean—direct, and the contribution was duly and thankfully acknowledged by the Secretary at Calcutta :—

Manitou Chapter,		Collingwood	$10 00
St. Paul's,	"	Toronto	10 00
Tecumseh,	"	Stratford	10 00
Waterloo,	"	Galt	5 00
St. John,	"	London	5 00
Wellington,	"	Chatham	5 00
Vancouver,	"	Vancouver, B.C	25 00
Palestine,	"	St. Thomas	5 00
Saugeen,	"	Mitchell	5 00
St. George	"	London	10 00
Wilson,	"	Welland	7 25
St. John,	"	Hamilton	10 00
Harris,	"	Ingersoll	5 00
Maple,	"	Carleton Place	5 00
Mt. Horeb,	"	Brantford	5 00
Niagara,	"	Niagara	5 00
Oxford,	"	Woodstock	5 00
K'g Solomon	"	Toronto	5 00
Victoria,	"	Port Hope	5 00
Brant,	"	Paris	5 00
McNabb,	"	Dresden	5 00
P. of Wales,	"	Amherstburgh	5 00
Total			$157 25

The amount, though not large, was acknowledged thankfully, and as our Brethren and Companions out there are found in all classes—Hindoos, Parsees, Sikhs and Mohammedans, as well as Christians—the Chapters that contributed may fairly indulge the hope that, among those who received their charity, were some Brethren and Companions.

The cosmopolitan character of our order is vividly expressed by Comp. Kipling, in his ode, "The Mother Lodge":

> "We'd Bola Nath, Accountant,
> An' Saul, the Aden Jew,
> An' Din Mohammed, Draughtsman,
> Of the Survey Office, too;
> There was Babu Chuckerbutty,
> An' Amir Singh, the Sikh,
> An' Castro from the fittin' sheds,
> The Roman Catholic."

The New Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

As you are aware a Committee was appointed at last Grand Chapter to prepare ceremonies more suitable for opening and closing our Grand Chapter. This was done and I

trust they will meet with the approbation of the Members of this Grand Body.

They are distinctive, short and, we trust, appropriate. The opening you will have seen before you hear my report, and can judge for yourselves.

A Grand Chapter for all Canada.

Although our Grand Chapter is called the Grand Chapter of Canada, we have to the eastward of us the Grand Chapters of Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, the last three, I understand, using much of the ritual and nomenclature of a foreign country.

It has, therefore, occurred to me, that as we are the largest and most numerous in Companions of the rest, that the suggestion to ascertain if there is any sentiment existing among the other Grand Bodies in Canada, to do Masonically what has been accomplished politically, and form a Grand Chapter of all Canada, should come from us.

I therefore throw out the idea for you, without affirming or denying its practicability, at the present time.

There are difficulties in the way, of course, so there were in 1867 when, this "cold true North land" of ours was made a Dominion.

The first was overcome, and so may the latter, if it is thought desirable and beneficial.

Obituary.

Since we met here last, a M. Ex. Comp., whose familiar face will be missed, has gone to that "bourne from which no traveller returns." I mean M. Ex. Comp Spry, who died last August in London.

The records of this Grand Chapter bear the evidence of his usefulness and influence in the conduct of its affairs, and his nimble mind and incisive speech were factors in every debate of consequence with us for many years past, while his warm heart and friendly hand endeared him to his Companions and Brethren.

In Rt. Ex. Comp. Davis, of London, also, we have lost an active and enthusiastic Companion and Brother, popular and admired as a Companion and Citizen.

"Their swords are rust,
Their bodies dust,
Their souls are with the saints, we trust."

Benevolence.

In consequence of the death of M. Ex. Comp. Spry, a vacancy followed in the Board of Benevolence, which I filled, by appointing M. Ex. Comp. R. B. Hungerford to fill the place of our deceased Comp.

Apropos of the Board of Benevolence I wish to call the attention of Grand Chapter to a defect in our Constitution. There is no provision requiring Chapters who send in the names of Companions for grants, to give evidence of their good faith, by first making a grant from their own funds. This rule, I understand, has worked well in the Blue Lodges, and I know of no reason why we should not adopt it. I accordingly recommend that this amendment be made to our Constitution.

Rulings.

In February last my ruling was formally requested on Sec. 2 of Article 8 of the Constitution, by the Grand Superintendent of Ontario District at Peterborough, the question was whether a Companion who was in good standing in this Chapter at the time the new Constitution became law on the 16th of July, 1895, was still in good standing, although he was not a member of a Blue Lodge when he affiliated with the Chapter, has not become so since.

I held, in accordance with the well known rule in the construction of statutes, that this section was not retroactive, as there was nothing in it by express enactment or necessary intendment making it so, and so held that the Companion was in good standing in the Chapter, although not a Member of a Lodge when he affiliated, or since.

Re McPhail Children.

These children had been in the receipt of a grant from this Grand Chapter, and then removed to Detroit, U. S. A. The Chapter at Goderich had not made any grant to them.

The Grand Scribe E. asked my ruling on the continuance of the grant, and after consideration, I held the grant should be cancelled, and it was cancelled accordingly.

Re Demit.

In June last I was asked by the Grand S. E. to rule whether a Demit could be granted to one who was only a Mark Master, by a Chapter. After considering Sec. 13, p. 39

of the Constitution, also the form of a Demit, p. 52, and Sec. 1 of p. 27 relating to the definition of Chapters, I held that a Demit could not be granted to a Mark Master as such.

The Work.

I have also during my visits been called upon to rule upon points of the work, as given, from time to time.

These rulings I have handed to M. Ex. Comp. Sargant, G. S. E. for the use of any of the Officers in the jurisdiction, who may wish to know them.

Re Superintendents.

Early in last year two of the Grand Superintendents, who were elected at Grand Chapter, resigned their Offices, or rather refused to accept them for business and other reasons. One was in St. Lawrence District and the other Niagara.

After consideration I appointed Rt Ex. Comp. Fitzsimmons, of Brockville, to the former District, and Rt. Ex. Comp. Geo. Burch to the latter, and they have made efficient Officers. I recommend that the rank of Past Grand Superintendent be conferred upon the E. Companion.

Re Carleton Chapter, Ottawa.

As many of you are aware, the Comps. of this Chapter lost their furniture and paraphernalia by fire not long since, and an application was made to me through the Past Grand Supt. of the District, to grant a duplicate warrant to them, gratis. Under the circumstances, and for the reasons given by the Past Grand Supt., I directed M. Ex. Comp. Sargant G. S. E. to waive the usual fee and issue the duplicate to the Chapter.

Dispensations.

During the past year I have signed the following Dispensations:

To elect and install Officers at other than regular Convocations, 12.

To exalt a brother who was not a Master Mason for three months, 1.

To Covenant Chapter at Farran's Point to meet at Cornwall, and elect and appoint Officers, the Chapter having been moved there by the Grand Supt., 1.

To install H. not J., 2.

To install Z. not H., 3.

To install Z. not H. or J., 1.

To allow Chapters to appear in Regalia on the 7th of June, 1897, the Centenary of R. A. M., 3.

To North Star Chapter at Edmonton to wear Regalia at Church, 1.

To North Star Chapter at Edmonton to Ex. Comp. Taylor to install the Officers, he not being a Past Z.

Condition of Royal Arch Masonry.

Taking all the Grand Superintendent's reports which have been sent in, which is all but one, Algoma, and applying as the test of life and prosperity, the number of Convocations held during the year, the number of admissions and present number of members, I arrive at the following result as the approximate condition of the Chapters throughout the jurisdiction :—

Stationary,	Retrograding,	Progressing,
16	13	51

Dormant,
2—in Ontario.

Taken by Provinces this classification, shews as follows :

Ontario :

Stationary,	Retrograding,	Progressing,
14	14	44

Manitoba :

Stationary,	Retrograding,	Progressing,
2	0	2

North-West Territories :

Stationary,	Retrograding,	Progressing,
0	0	3

British Columbia :

Stationary,	Retrograding,	Progressing,
0	0	2

Applying the same test to the Districts, I find the five following the most active and prosperous, viz :

London, Huron, Toronto, Georgian, and Ontario, which are nearly equal.

The least progressive are Niagara and Prince Edward, in the order given—the former shews 2 stationary and 2 retrograding—the latter 4 stationary and 1 progressing.

I notice also that in Wellington District, not one of the Chapters has returned any insurance, except Galt.

I commend to the other Chapters in this, and other Districts who are neglecting this important duty, sec. 5, page 26 of the constitution.

Niagara Falls and Niagara Falls South, are but a short distance apart, and the Chapter at Niagara Falls South there is languishing—from the information I have received from the Grand Superintendent and the Grand H, it would be much in the interests of this Chapter to remove to Niagara Falls Ont.

I and the Grand Superintendent, and Rt. Ex Comp. Reid, have recommended this course to the Chapter, but so far without result; and I again call the attention of this Chapter to this recommendation and urge that they lay aside all personal feelings and agree to the removal.

Brant, in Wilson District, is a Chapter about four years old, and according to their return to the Grand Superintendent, they are in the unique position of having $112 of outstanding dues. King Solomon of Toronto is happy in the possession of $285 of unpaid dues.

The question which naturally arises in these and other cases is, what are these Scribes E. doing ?

Manitoba.

In this Province there are two stationary and two progressing.

The Superintendent has not furnished Grand Chapter with any details of the state of the Chapters in his Province, but I gather from his report that the above is the situation there.

He reports the two Chapters at Winnepeg as progressing ; at Morden and Boissevain, he says, there is no material growth, and he does not look for any great extension of Royal Craft in his Province.

The reasons given are that the towns are too far apart—that Royal Arch Masons are so conservative and that they have no "numerals" to shew that they are such to the Master Mason. It is to be hoped that the rapid growth of the west will soon meet the first objection, by increasing the number of towns, and thus bringing them closer together, and if the signs of the times can be relied upon, this will soon happen.

As to the last two reasons, I trust that Royal Arch Masonry will always remain so conservative as to be able to offer

the Master Mason something more substantial than "numerals" merely, as an inducement to enroll themselves in our branch of the Craft.

Alberta.

There are but three Chapters in this region yet—they are at Regina, Edmonton and Calgary ; they are flourishing and their future is bright.

British Columbia.

The two Chapters of this District are at Vancouver and Kaslo, the latter U. D.

This Province like the North-West Territories, is a country of magnificent distances, and the Superintendents there have no sinecure in performing their duties.

The present Grand Superintendent, Rt. Ex. Comp. H. Watson, of Vancouver, has proved himself to be an enthusiastic and efficient officer, and he is entitled to my thanks for the interest he has shewn in connection with the Scotch Chapters matter, and in getting the Chapter at Kaslo on its feet, and travelling out there to install its officers. I notice that this Chapter has admitted nine candidates since last summer, and that their fee is $50.

Re Rt. Ex Comp. Warner, of Napanee.

It is with much regret that I have learned that we have lately lost an influential Comp. and Grand Superintendent, in the person of Rt. Ex. Companion Warner, of Napanee, the County Attorney, and a prominent Barrister in his County ; his wife's severe illness rendered it compulsory for them to remove to Denver, Colorado, where he will remain. We wish him God speed, and trust the removal will bring "healing in its wings" to the afflicted wife.

Before closing this part of my report, I take this opportunity of testifying to the prompt and willing assistance which during this my first year of office, I have received from our Grand S. E., M. Ex. Comp. Sargant. His thorough knowledge of the working of the Grand Chapter, and the rights and duties of the subordinate Chapters, in their relation to it and to your Grand Z, enabled him to give me many a useful piece of advice in matters which are new to my superintendence.

Your Superintendents have also been diligent in attend-

ing to their duties, all and more especially those I met, have done good and acceptable work in their respective Districts, in their chief duty of visitation.

I consider these Officers an excellent feature of our Grand Chapter, they are the connecting links between the Grand Chapter and the Subordinate Chapters, and when they are diligent in visiting the Chapters of their Districts, inspecting the work, the books, and conduct of the Chapters, their usefulness is steady, permanent, and beneficial, both to the Grand Chapter and the Chapters themselves.

The Queen's Jubilee.

It would be inexcusable for your Grand Z. to close this report with no allusion to that most remarkable event. The 60th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The mother of the Grand Master of England and the Patroness of our Craft. The Queen of a mighty Empire, and last but not least, a model wife and mother.

In sober truth it is safe to say that the world never before saw such a spectacle as that presented to it on that memorable 22nd of June, 1897, in that great city of London. The heart of this Empire and the outward and visible embodyment of

> "The Bank of the open credit,
> "The Power House of the line."

There were gathered all colours, races, and representatives from all climes, to do honour to Queen Victoria, and down in the hearts of that clamorous multitude, the animating emotion was love and respect for the Queen in the three-fold personality of Queen, wife and mother.

Being a Constitutional Sovereign, we are apt to fall into the error, that during all these years she did not exercise any very direct influence on the affairs of the Empire. No greater mistake could be entertained.

"Again and again she has intervened, says the Quarterly Review, with striking success, to conciliate the rancour of party strife, or to avert dangerous collisions between the two houses of Parliament, and between the Government and the opposition.

"Nor is it only at these stormy crises of domestic or foreign politics, which arrest the public gaze, that her influence has been exerted.

"Throughout her long reign, the calm moderating pressure

of her hand has been so general and pervasive, that like the pressure of the atmosphere, its touch has been unfelt.

"No statesman has ever come in contact with her, without being impressed by her wise prudence, as well as struck with her singular powers of concentration ; and very few have failed to feel, that compared with her wide knowledge and long experience of affairs, their own acquaintance with national interests is short and superficial."

On that auspicious day in London, I am proud to say this Canada of ours took her rightful place among the Colonies of our Empire and laid the true heart of this Dominion as a thank-offering at the foot of Her Majesty's throne, as a tribute to the longest and best reign, in every sense, of the monarchs of Great Britain.

And now, in the stirring words of a "Song of the English," let us obey her injunction :—

"Draw now the three-fold knot, firm, on the nine-fold bands,
And the law that ye make shall be law, after the rule of your lands—
This for waxen heath, and that for the Wattle bloom,
This for the Maple leaf, and that for the southern Broom ;
The law that ye make, shall be law, and I do not press my will,
Because ye are sons of the Blood, and call me Mother still."
—*Kipling.*

M. WALSH, *Grand First Principal.*

January 21st, 1898.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. E. Comp. G. F. Shipley, and

Resolved :—That the address of the M. Ex. Grand Z. be referred to the Executive Committee to report thereon during the present convocation of Grand Chapter.

ST. CLAIR DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z, Grand Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I have the honor to submit for your consideration my report on the condition of Royal Arch Masonry in the St. Clair District.

I issued a Circular to each Chapter informing them of my appointment and called attention to what I thought was required guarding the honor of Capitular Masonry.

There are six Chapters in the District, viz., No. 47, Wellington, Chatham; No. 71, Prince of Wales, Amherstburg; No. 73, Erie, Ridgetown; No. 80, Ark, Windsor; No. 88, MacNabb, Dresden; No. 119, King Cyrus, Leamington.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

On the evening of March 8th, I accompanied the Most Excellent, the Grand Z, M. Walsh, officially to Ark Chapter Windsor.

This Chapter is in a flourishing condition, the members all seem to take an active part and do their work well. Ex. Comp. John Sale, as first principal, is in the right place. The Chapter this evening was out in full force, as well as the Detroit Sister Chapters, being present to the number of about forty to do honor to the Most Excellent Grand Z.

The Royal Arch Degree was conferred on several candidates and was as near perfection as can be done; Companion Robert H. Revell, S E, I must say, is the model S. E. of the District. The success of a Chapter depends to a great extent on the S.E. of any Chapter, and in this Ark Chapter is fortunate. The present membership is 108, insurance carried, three hundred dollars, financially in good condition.

After the meeting was over we repaired to the banquet hall where a splendid supper awaited us. This hall is in the same building, splendidly fitted up for such occasions and in keeping with the City.

McNabb, No. 88, Dresden.—I visited this Chapter officially on the 3rd of June, and had the pleasure of meeting Right Ex. Companion Sharp, and seeing the degree of M.M. M. conferred in a very creditable manner. The present membership is thirty seven. No insurance is carried, and I would recommend this or any other Chapter to attend to this matter. The prospects of this Chapter is good. The meeting being over, a carefully prepared supper awaited us, and I assure you ample justice was done to the good things provided.

This Chapter kindly allowed me five dollars towards my expenses, the only Chapter in the District that saw fit to do so.

King Cyrus, No. 119, Leamington.—In accordance with advice from the Most Excellent Grand Z, a Chapter of instruction was held at Leamington on November 25th, (Thanksgiving day) at 3 o'clock and 7.30 p.m. The Degrees of M.M.M. and M.E.M. and Royal Arch were conferred by Ark Chapter in a most satisfactory manner.

King Cyrus Chapter is only one year old, hence my reason for calling a Chapter of Instruction at Leamington without asking the opinion of the other Chapters where it should be held. I found a good deal of enthusiasm among the members, and believe King Cyrus is all right.

I regret to say that only three Chapters were represented, viz.. Ark Chapter, Windsor ; Erie Chapter, Ridgetown ; King Cyrus, Leamington. Not enough of interest is taken in Instruction Meetings, if seems hard to get the different Chapters together.

WELLINGTON CHAPTER, NO. 47, CHATHAM —I have not been able to arrange a meeting with this Chapter and sorry that the only report I can give of it is Companion James Birch's S. E., letter to me

"Dear Sir and Rt. Ex. Companion,—Enclosed find return filled in as desired. I am very sorry we have had no work this fall or winter so far. I have just had an application handed to me at our last regular convocation. Several members pledged themselves to try earnestly to work up the Chapter here, if at all possible, to something like what it ought to be.

This is far from being satisfactory from a city of ten thousand people or more, with several lodges in the country to draw from. They have a membership of thirty six, insurance carried, two hundred dollars.

PRINCE OF WALES, NO. 71, AMHERSTBURG.—This Chapter I regret to say I have not visited, nor have I had the pleasure of receiving their summary information for the Grand Superintendent. I corresponded with the S.E. of the Chapter, and have received no reply.

ERIE CHAPTER, NO. 73, RIDGETOWN.—I have been very regular in my attendance in this my mother Chapter. There has been no work done during this year, but have held their meetings regularly. I purpose visiting this Chapter officially on the 10th January to install the newly elected officers, which foretells a prosperous year ahead of them. The present membership is forty, insurance carried, one hundred and seventy-five dollars.

DISPENSATIONS.

Only one being asked for during the year, this was on the 22nd of June, Queen's Diamond Jubilee, by Erie Chapter, to appear in Regalia in procession on said occasion. I recommended this ; no such an event that I am aware of ever

occurred in the history of Masonry. The Most Excellent Grand Z. was pleased to grant it.

EXPENSES.

Under the present order of affairs, I would strongly recommend the Grand Chapter to adopt in their Constitution a clause such as has been adopted by the Grand Lodge of Canada (see page 51, clause 178, of their Constitution) which reads as follows: "Each private Lodge shall defray the travelling expenses of District Deputy Grand Master to the extent of at least one visit.

FEES.

In regard to fees, I find a growing inclination to raise the Initiation fee; in fact, Ark Chapter, Windsor, has already raised theirs to twenty dollars, yearly dues to three dollars, other Chapters I believe will follow.

In conclusion, I have to thank my predecessors, the Past Grand Superintendants, and all Officers and Companions that I visited in No. 1 District for the cordial and fraternal receptions accorded to me during my official visits.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

S. S. WILLISON,
Grand Supt., St Clair District.

LONDON DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z, Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

I have the honor as Grand Superintendent of the London District to present my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in this District, which embraces the following Chapters, viz, St. John's, No. 3, London; St. George, No. 5, London; Wawanosh, No. 15, Sarnia; Bruce, No. 53, Petrolia; Palestine, No. 54, St. Thomas; Minnewawa, No. 78, Park Hill; Aylmer, No. 81, Aylmer.

I have visited all the Chapters in the District once, some of them twice, and it is with pleasure I am able to state that every Chapter in the District is in good working order.

The work done in the Chapters in the District for the past year is as follows: Initiations, 62; affiliations, 2; restorations, 3; withdrawals, 4; suspensions, 3; deaths, 8. A total increase during the year, 53.

MINNEWAWA, No. 78, Park Hill.—Visited this Chapter on March 19th, when I had the pleasure of meeting the Most Excellent, the Grand Z, on his official visit. This Chapter is not increasing fast in membership, but considering the three small Lodges they have had to draw their members from, they are doing fairly well, as the three Lodges combined has oniy 100 members. This Chapter is held in a rurul district, a number of the Companions living in the country and have long drives to attend the Chapter meetings, and at this time of year often bad roads. I was unfortunate in selecting this date for my visit. Early in the evening it commenced to rain and with the bad roads prevented many of the members attending—in consequence a small attendance. Ex. Companion Z. H. and J., all the subordinate officers present made it as pleasant as they could. Minnewawa Companions are noted for the kind and courteous manner they receive visitors. Among the leading lights of the Royal Craft were Ex. Comp. Dr. Caw, P.Z., Ex. Comp. McLeod, Wedd, Dawson and a few others that have kept the Chapter alive during times of depression, and as long as the officers have the assistance of these Companions I feel confident it will prosper.

The total membership of this Chapter is 33, increase during the year, 2; meetings held, 7; average attendance, 12; annual dues, $1.50; number of members 12 months in arrears, 8; liabilities, nil; cash on securities, $20. Property insured jointly with Blue Lodge.

Degrees conferred M.M.M. 3, Ex. M. 3 R.A.2. Comp. Wedd is Scribe E., and keeps a neat and correct set of books.

Two candidates were expected to be exalted but as they had a long drive, the heavy rain and bad roads they did not attend. A Companion acted as a Candidate. The officers exemplified the R.A.D. The work was done in a very pleasing manner, and if given the opportunity I feel confident they will be correct workers.

The little grievance that has been felt at Wawanosh Chapter taking Forest brethren in that Chapter, which was done by consent of Bruce Chapter, Petrolia, has been agreeably settled.

This dispute has been over the jurisdiction of Forest. It has been hard to decide whether it is in the jurisdiction of Bruce Chapter, Petrolia, or in the jurisdiction of Minnewawa, Park Hill. On investigation I find it is nearer Park Hill.

One report I have gives Forest to Park Hill by half an inch. Bruce Chapter waves jurisdiction over Forest. In favor of Minnewawa I am very pleased at this as Minnewawa needs Forest. Wawanosh Chapter has plenty of material to draw from. Bruce Chapter don't need Forest. They have initiated one Forest Brother in 25 years, he was demitted 16 years ago.

When the Chapter was closed all were invited to partake of a well prepared supper, where we spent a very pleasant hour with the Companions. My visit to Minnewawa Chapter will be remembered with pleasure.

St. George, No. 5, London.—This Chapter meets in the Blue Lodge room, in the Masonic Temple. The room is large and well adapted for the exemplification of the several degrees. Their regular nights of meeting are on the fourth Friday of every month. I made my official visit on March 26th, accompanied by 16 Companions of Bruce Chapter. A good attendance of members and visitors present. Among those to welcome your representative was, R. Ex. Comps. McWhinney, Munson, Broderick, Dewar, Burke. V. Ex. Comp. Campbell, Ex. Comp. Butler, P.Z., and many other Past Zs. Ex. Comp. Spittal and his efficient staff of officers present, and conferred the R.A.D. on 2 M. Ex. M. The Ex. Z. is a correct and impressive worker. and he is ably assisted with a good staff of officers. This Chapter is noted for correct work and will maintain its reputation with the present officers. Ex. Z. has a clear and effective voice and makes a good impression on the candidates. All the subordinate officers doing their parts well. Comp. Reed is Scribe E., and the manner in which he keeps his books is a credit to him.

This Chapter has a membership of 116, increase during the year, 13. Meetings held, 10; average attendance, 25; degrees conferred, M.M.M., 11; M. Ex. M., 11; R.A., 11; assets, $1,161; insurance carried, $200. No liabilities. Prospects of Chapter bright.

After the Chapter was closed all were invited to the banquet hall where all were pleasantly entertained for two hours. The Companions of St. George Chapter are noted for their hospitality. My visit to this Chapter and the very kind reception I received will be remembered with pleasure.

Bruce, No. 53, Petrolia.—This Chapter meets in Blue Lodge room in the Masonic Temple, first Thursday in every month. This Chapter has enjoyed a year of prosperity un-

precedented in the history of the Chapter. This being my mother Chapter I attend all the Convocations and have seen all the degrees conferred several times during the year.

Convocations held, 25; Regular, 12; Emergent, 13; degrees conferred, M.M.M., 24, M. Ex. M., 24, R.A., 24. Total increase during the year, 24. Four applications accepted, and three more in the hands of the Committee to announce new year with prospects of Chapter exceedingly bright.

This Chapter has a membership of 84. Average attendance, excluding visitors, 18; annual dues, $2; number of members 12 months in arrears, 7; assets, $500; insurance carried, $250. No liabilities.

Early in the year Ex. Comp. Mann, P.Z. Scribe E., resigned after due notice had been given. Comp. Belasco was elected to that office. He is a very efficient and painstaking officer. Books neat, correct, dues well collected. He has every member marked in the book of marks. Bruce Chapter may well feel proud of their Scribe E.

I made my official visit to this Chapter on May 6th, on the occasion of a visit from the Most Excellent, the Grand Z, V. Ex. Comp. Sinclair, Z, Ex. Comp. Smythe, H.. Ex. Comp. Marshall, J., and all the subordinate officers present, and exalted 6 M.E.M. to the R.A. This being my mother Chapter I feel a little hesitancy in praising the officers for the correct manner the work was done, but in justice to them I must say the work was done perfect. V. Ex. Comp. Sinclair Z., has a district record for doing good work and he keeps his subordinate officers well up in their work. The Most Excellent, the Grand Z., and other P.Zs.' paid high compliments to the officers for their correct work.

After the Chapter had closed all were invited to the Iroquois Hotel, where a grand banquet was prepared. After partaking of the good things and the usual toasts responded to, and the singing of the National Anthem, all retired.

Wawanosh Chapter, No. 15, Sarnia.—Made my first official visit to this Chapter on May 29th. V. Ex. Comp. Sinclair, Z, of Bruce Chapter, accompanied me on my visit. A good attendance of the Royal Craft present. On the occasion of my visit the degrees of M.M M. and M.E.M. were conferred on two candidates. Ex. Comp. Kerr, Z., as W. M.; Ex. Comp. Simpson, H., as S. W.; Ex. Comp. Pearson, J., as J. W. All the officers present. Ex. Comp. Kerr

conferred the degree on the first candidate, and O. B. the second. The S. W. then took the chair and conferred the degree. The work was done in a pleasing manner. All the officers having their work well up. The M. Ex M. degrees were equally well given. This Chapter has been very active during the year. 16 convocations held; 10 regular, 6 emergent. Total membership, 97; increase during the year, 14; average attendance of members, 18; visitors, 5. Annual dues, $1.50; outstanding dues, $150. This will be collected by first meeting in January. Degrees conferred during the year, M. M. M., 16; M. Ex. M., 16; R. A., 15. No liabilities. Assets, $500. Insurance carried, $250. Prospects of Chapter excellent. Ex. Comp. Woods is Scribe E., and keeps an excellent set of books. This Chapter was represented at last meeting of Grand Chapter by Ex. Comp. Kerr, Z.

Again visited this Chapter on October 19th. I was accompanied on this visit by 26 Companions of Bruce Chapter, (officers included). There was a large gathering of the Royal Craft. 25 visitors from Port Huron, and St. Clair, Michigan. They came to see the R. A. D. conferred. Ex. Comp. Kerr, Z., Ex. Comp. Simpson, H., Ex. Comp. Pearson, J., and subordinate officers present, and exalted two candidates. The officers of Bruce Chapter then took the chair and exalted two candidates to the R. A., the officers of both Chapters doing the work in a correct manner, and I had much pleasure in complimenting not only the principals but all the subordinate officers. Many of the visiting Past Zs. and present Zs. from Michigan expressed themselves highly pleased with the beautiful work which they had witnessed for the first time in a Canadian Chapter, and paid high compliments to the officers for the manner the work was done. This brought to a close a very interesting meeting.

After the Chapter closed all were invited to the Beichamber House where a grand banquet was prepared. Over 100 sat down to the tables. A pleasant evening was spent with the Companions. Your representative was loyally received on both visits.

Palestine Chapter, No. 54, St. Thomas.—This Chapter meets regularly on the second Thursday of every month. On October 14th I made my official visit. A very good attendance present. I had the pleasure of meeting R. Ex. Comp. McKay, Past Grand Supt., London District. He is

Treasurer of the Chapter. He is a regular attender and takes deep interest in all that pertains to the Royal Craft. Noted among the visitors were Ex. Comp. Butler, P. Z, Ex. Comp. Spittall, Z., Ex. Comp. Budner, P. S., all of St. George Chapter, London. The present membership is 91. Average attendance, (excluding visitors) 17. Work done during the year, M.M.M. 3, M. Ex. M., 5, R. A. 5; increase during the year, three initiations, one affiliation. Decrease during the year, one suspension, three deaths. Annual dues, $1. Number of members twelve months in arrears, 60. Assets of Chapter, $600; insurance carried, $400. Liabilities none. Prospects good.

Ex. Comp. Idsardi, P. Z, is Scribe E. Books well kept. He has filled the office for 11 years. He entertained me in the afternoon, driving me round the city, and made my visit very pleasant. He informed me that there had been a little depression in the city, and not many coming into the Blue Lodges accounts for their Chapter taking in so few members. As the trade revives they expect a larger increase next year. On the occasion of my visit Ex. Comp. Dubber, and officers present and gave me a loyal welcome.

After the business of the Chapter was disposed of Chapter closed. Closing well done. A Lodge of M. M. M. was opened. Ex. Comp Dubber, Z., as W.M., in the chair, with the assistance of the officers advanced a candidate to the M. M. M. degree. The work was fairly well done. There is room for improvement, particularly the floor work. There was a little foreign work introduced which I pointed out to the officers which I think will be left out in future, and I feel confident when my successor visits Palestine Chapter next year and sees the M. M. M. degree given, he will see it well done.

AYLMER, No. 81, Aylmer.—This Chapter meets in Aylmer regularly on the Friday on or before full moon. I made my official visit on October 15th, arriving in town about 3 o'clock. I was met at the station by the Ex. Comp. first principal, and taken to the store of Ex. Comp. Richards, Scribe E. of the Chapter. I was a stranger to the town, but Alymer Companions will soon make any stranger feel at home. Ex. Comp. Richards took me around and soon had me introduced to a number of Companions. I met my esteemed Companion, R. Ex. Comp. Rutherford, Past Grand Superintendent of London District, who with Ex. Companions Scribe E. and

Ex. Z, entertained me for an hour driving me around their beautiful town. At 8 p.m. I met them in the Chapter room where a good attendance was present. R. Ex. Comp. Rutherford introduced me. I received a loyal welcome. It is pleasing to see the harmony among the Companions both in and out of the Chapter room. They meet in a comfortable and beautifully furnished room. Very convenient. On account of the depression for some little time they have not added many to their roll. It will be pleasing for Grand Chapter to know that there is no lack of interest. They meet regular. The attendance is good. They have a membership of 49. Average attendance, 20; meetings held, 10. Degrees conferred, M. M. M., 1, M. Ex. M. R. A. 2. Annual dues, $2. Number of members 12 months in arrears, 7. No liabilities. Assets, $300. Insured. Prospects of Chapter very good, as they expect to increase their membership during the coming year. Ex Comp. Richards is Scribe E. He keeps his books in excellent shape.

As they had no candidates for degrees the Ex. First Principal and officers kindly consented to exemplify the R. A. degree. The work was done in a most pleasing manner, each and every officer giving his part in a clear and distinct manner. The officers are young men, very active, and deserves great credit for the careful study of the work, and I had very much pleasure in complimenting them. This Chapter is fortunate in having with them R. E. Comp. Rutherford whose good counsel is at all times appreciated.

St. John's Chapter, No. 3, London.—This Chapter meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month in the Chapter room, Masonic Temple. This has been one of the prosperous Chapters, and has the largest membership in the District. Their room is neat but rather small. This Chapter has not added many to its roll during the past year. I was told that some worthy Brothers had been kept out. It may not be wise for me to say anything in this matter but will leave it to the better judgment of those who profess to know. I sincerely trust that it is from pure Masonic principles that any worthy Brother is refused advancement. On October 27th I made my official visit to this Chapter accompanied by Comp. Read of Bruce Chapter, 53, Petrolia. There was a good attendance of members and visitors present. As your representative I received a very cordial and loyal welcome. Among the distinguished Companions, R. Ex. Comps.

Cooper, McWhinney, Dewar, Burke, and a number of Past Zs. Ex. Comp. Findlay Z., Ex. Comp. Carson, H, Ex. Comp. Gould, J. All the subordinate officers present. After the business of the Chapter was disposed of, the officers exalted 2 M. E M. to the R. A. The work was good throughout and I was highly pleased with it. I had much pleasure in complimenting, not only the three principals, but all the officers. The Principal Sojourner deserves special mention, not only accurate but exact in detail of floor work.

This Chapter has a membership of 132. Average attendance, 25. Annual dues, $2. Initiations, 4; restorations, 2: withdrawals, 1; suspensions, 1; Degrees conferred, M. M. M., 4, M. E. M. 4, R. A. 3. Number of members 12 months in arrears, 50. Assets of Chapter, $600. Amount of insurance, $400. No liabilities. Prospects of Chapter fair. Scribe E. reports lowering initiation fee has injured the Chapter financially. The books of the Chapter are well kept by Comp. John Siddons; he has been elected to this important office for the 25th time.

This Chapter deeply deplores the death of Most Excellent Companion Daniel Spry. His many valued services to Grand Chapter and in the promotion of the interests of Capitular Masonry in this District will long be remembered, and his kindly deeds to members of the Craft of all grades will furnish a lasting monument to his memory. No words of mine can add to the lustre his honored name was held.

Held a Chapter of Instructions in the City of London on October 26th, in the Blue Lodge Room, Masonic Temple, and was honored with a visit from the Most Excellent Grand Z. Most Ex. Comp. Hungerford, Past Grand Z, R. Ex. Companions McWhinny, Cooper, Dewar, Smyth, and many other distinguished Companions were present. In the afternoon Session the degree of M. M. M. was conferred by the officers of St. John's Chapter, No. 3, London. Ex. Comp. Findlay, Z., as W. M. The M. E. M. degree was conferred by Most Ex. Comp. Walsh, Grand Z., as W. M., in the chair, assisted by the officers of St. John's and St. George Chapters. In the evening the Royal Arch degree was conferred by the officers of St. George Chapter, No. 5, London. The work throughout was well done and little room for criticism, the Most Excellent Grand Z. expressed himself as highly pleased with the work done. I take this opportunity of sincerely thanking the Officers and Companions of St. John's and St. George Chapters for having made all arrangements

for Chapter of Instructions. After Chapter closed all were invited to the banquet hall where the Companions were kindly entertained by the two City Chapters.

During the year I have granted two dispensations ; one to St. George Chapter, No. 5, London, and one to Bruce Chapter, No. 53, Petrolia, to appear clothed as Royal Arch Masons to attend Divine Service.

I sincerely thank the representatives who elected me to the honorable position of Grand Superintendent for this District ; also the Most Excellent, the Grand Z., and Most Excellent Comp. Thomas Sargant, Grand Scribe E., in giving any information I asked for.

In resigning my office as Grand Superintendent, I cannot do so without expressing my thanks for the kind and generous treatment extended me by the Officers and Companions on my official visits to the different Chapters of the District. To V. Ex. Comp. Sinclar. Officers and Companions of Bruce Chapter I am very grateful for having accompanied me on many of my official visits.

And now as I am about to hand over my Regalia to my successor I predict for him a pleasant term.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

ROBERT SCOTT,
Grand Superintendent London District.

Petrolia, December 30th, 1897.

WILSON DISTRICT, No. 3.

To the Most Excellent, The Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

Having been elected at the last Grand Chapter meeting as the Grand Superintendent for this, The Wilson District, No. 3, I beg leave to submit my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the several Chapters, all of which I have visited duting this year. There are five Chapters, viz. : Oxford, No. 18, Woodstock H. A. Biggins, Z. ; Mount Horeb, No 20, Brantford, W. L. Hughes, Z. ; Ezra, No. 23, Simcoe, F. Reid, Z. ; Harris, No. 41, Ingersoll, Wm. Partlo, Z. ; and Brant, No. 116, Paris, C. M. Foley, Z. My first visit was on October 18th, to Oxford Chapter, No. 18, to see the exemplification of the R. A. Degree, where I found a good turn out of Companions to greet your representative, and was most royally received, which is characteristic of the brethren of this

town. All Grand Representatives, visitors and strangers of the Masonic Fraternity, are made to feel entirely at home within the portals of their Masonic home, and when outside, the comforts and wants are looked after with a brother's care. The Royal Arch Degree was exemplified in a manner most creditable, and compares well with the work I have witnessed in the other Chapters in the District; but owing to circumstances over which the Principal sojourner, the Rev. Comp. J. C. Farthing, M.A., had no control, he was unable to be present. I regret the circumstance very much, as I am informed, and have good reason to believe that the work as done by him cannot be surpassed, and the impressive manner in which his part is delivered, makes a lasting impression on those who have the honor of being conducted through the ceremony under his guidance.

The subordinate places of other officers in this Chapter had to be filled, owing to the same cause which necessitated the absence of the Principal Sojourner, but the work was done most admirably by all. The Principal Z. has his work up well, and should be a great help and mainstay to this Chapter when he passeth out of his position. I was pleased to meet many old and trusty Craftsmen taking their places in the Chapter. R. E. Comp. A. R. K. Macdonald, P. G. S., my predecessor, proves a valuable help also, and I take great pleasure in stating that I found traces of his excellent supervision all through the District. A feature of this Masonic town of Woodstock, which struck me very much, was the absence of many Grand Representatives of the Grand Lodge of Canada, who have never availed themselves of the privilege of becoming members of Oxford Chapter. This fact, in my mind, is to be regretted. The prospects of this Chapter are good, although, like most of others in the District, the amount of arrears for dues is far too large. This matter I will refer to later on in my report.

John Morrison, the Scribe E., is an old, tried, true and trusty Comp., and his books certainly are a credit to him.

My visit on November 19th, to Paris, Brant, No. 115. This visit, of course, gave me great pleasure, although, not attended with that respect due your Grand Representative, owing, perhaps, to the fact that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, and perhaps also from the fact that I have made frequent appeals to this Chapter to try and rise out of the depths of despair and an utter disregard of their

solemn obligations to attend all meetings. However, with a new set of officers I am in hopes this Chapter will yet prosper. No work has been done the past year ; and, although there is everything to make the Chapter attractive in parapharnelia, comfortable rooms, etc., there seems to be an extraordinary lack of enthusiasm. No work, of course, accounts for this to a great extent. This Chapter, like the rest, has too much dues outstanding on the books, which should not be as this Chapter has only been in existence for about three years. I have hopes that this year this Chapter will make a fresh start as they have received some applications which will do them some good.

My next visit was to my Mother Chapter, on December 3rd, in Brantford, Mount Horeb, No. 20, W. L. Hughes, Principal Z. having been a member of this Chapter for many years. I felt quite a pleasure in visiting therein as your Representative, and to find them improving in every way, although no work was to be exemplified I made a thorough examination of their books, which I found in excellent order. The Principal Z. is not what I call a good worker in the R A. work. There was a fair attendance of members. Election of officers took place on that evening, and I certainly congratulate them on their choice, and sincerely hope that this Chapter will soon take their old place as the leading Chapter in the District. The dues outstanding are far too large. The prospects for additional membership is most promising. The Scribe E., W. H. Inglis, who is descended from Masonic stock, keeps the records perfect ; and I must say that his presence, together with his brothers, always makes one's visit to their Masonic gatherings of all kinds, most enjoyable, and they have done a great deal to keep up the Masonic record of this Telephone City.

R. E. Comp. S. F. Passmore, is a great assistance to this Chapter. When called upon to take up the work of an absent Comp. I consider the prospects of this Chapter for the coming year, good.

Travelling on to Ingersoll, and in company with the Most Excellent the Grand Z., I visited Harris, No. 41. I was very pleased to find a good turn out to witness the exemplification of the M. M. Degree, which was worked most creditably by Ex. Companion Wm. Parks, as W. M. The work throughout, with two exceptions, was perfect. I say this, not simply because The Most Excellent The Grand Z. is a member of this Chapter, but from a sense of duty which is due to every well

qualified Companion. This Chapter certainly has more aged Masons who regularly attend, and are an example to the younger. This is a most pleasing feature at their gatherings, and the respect shown your Grand Representative was very gratifying indeed. This Chapter has very bright prospects, and certainly Capitular Masonry will never wane in this Western town.

Again I must bring to your notice the amount of dues outstanding in this Chapter. Their assets are not given, but I have no doubt are ample. The Scribe E. Comp. J. F. Williams, has the books in excellent order, and a credit to any Chapter. It was, indeed, a great pleasure to me to meet such a distinguished Comp. as the Most Excellent The Grand Z., M. E. Comp. Michael Walsh ; would that every Chapter had such enthusiastic men amongst them. Conscientious in all things, especially pertaining to the Craft ; and when we meet such men it makes us really feel that there is almost something more than brotherly love amongst Masons. This Chapter certainly is second to none in the District.

My last meeting was held at Simcoe on December 21st, to Ezra, No. 23, where your Grand Representative was accorded a most loyal welcome, and was greeted by the largest turn out in the District. The prospects of this Chapter are the best of any. I was very pleased, indeed, to meet my old friend, R. E. Comp. J. D. Christie, P. C. S., who took charge of the work, and exemplified the R. A. Degree in his old grand style, when he was your representative. No less than four candidates were exalted, and I am sure must have been most favorably impressed with the ceremony. There has been more work performed by them than any other three Chapters in the District, which speaks volumes. The present Z., Ex. Comp., Frank Reid, is a well skilled Comp., and, although he did not perform the ceremony as it was the first night after installation, I excused him on those grounds, although I know he can do the work. He, however, took the place of P. S., and did his work beautifully and impressively, which fact gave me the belief, he could have taken his place as Prin. Z. and have done his work well. I was very pleased to meet some of the Companions from Hamilton, who had travelled that distance to assist in according me that welcome due to my exalted position.

Capitular Masonry in this town is very gratifying, and you will, I feel sure, always have good reports from them. My reception by the Companions of Ezra Chapter was the warmest of all, and I feel most gratified indeed.

I mentioned previously that I would refer to the matter of dues outstanding on the books of the several Chapters, and although I don't wish it to be taken by the Scribe Ex. that I am finding fault altogether with them, I think that with a little canvassing of the members, personally, it would help this matter considerably. Companions, as a rule, are indifferent to their obligations in this respect. It is a pity it is so, but such is the case, for when we consider that the four Chapters of the five—the fifth has omitted this item—have no less than four hundred and fifty dollars outstanding for dues alone, it is time your Grand Body take the matter up and issue more stringent rules governing such irregularities. It may be very unpleasant for the Scribe, but I consider it his duty. In most cases he is paid for it, to see that the finances of a Chapter are collected. What would your Grand Chapter be if such a state of things were carried on? But thanks to such a most excellent Grand Scribe E. as you have, such a state of affairs is not allowed to exist. Why should it not be in the subordinate Chapters? Every Chapter would prosper if Comp. were not afraid to attend their meetings, simply because they owed large amounts for arrears. In one Chapter I was informed that one Past Grand Representative was three or four years in arrears for dues. Alas! alas! are such men an honor to the Craft? I am pleased to say that the Chapters in this District are prospering, some more than others. I regret very much that I was unable to carry out the wishes of the Most Excellent The Grand Z., to hold a Chapter of institution in this District, which I should have done. The fault lay with myself, as I put the matter off too late in the year, when the Companions were too busy to attend. I might say that in very few instanees was the rule of the Grand Chapter adhered to by the proper registration of marks.

Before closing my report, I beg leave to thank the Companions of Wilson District for the honor they have conferred on me in electing me to that high office, which I have endeavored to fill with credit to them, I hope, as well as to myself; and to thank all for the kind and cordial greeting extended to me as your Grand Representative; and I hope that the friendly feeling which they have shown, and which I have endeavored to reciprocate, may long continue; and I can assure them that the pleasant recollections of their kindness to me will long be remembered and cherished by The Grand Superintendent of Wilson District No. 3.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

PETER H. COX, G. S. W. D., No. 3.

Paris, Ont.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT, No. 4.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

I beg to present my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in Wellington District, No. 4, during the past year :

As no statistical statements accompany the reports submitted by the Superintendents last year, I assume that the useful return sent out this year by the Grand Scribe E. is meant to afford the officers the information needed to make their reports fully up to date. There should therefore be no excuse now for failure to satisfy the appetite of the most voracious figure fiend.

Guelph Chapter No. 40, Guelph. — My first official visit was paid to this Chapter at the regular convocation in July, on which occasion the degree of Mark Master was conferred upon six candidates. This was the first work done by the recently installed officers and was performed in a creditable manner. I visited the Chapter a second time at its September meeting, when three candidates were exalted to the Royal Arch Degree — the ceremony being conducted in a highly satisfactory manner by the regular officers. I noticed a manifest improvement in the mode of doing the work since the previous meeting. The three Principals are very competent officers—Ex. Comp. First Principal Mahoney particularly so. The books are well kept by the Scribe E. The prospects of Capitular Masonry in the Royal City are quite hopeful — the Companions were sufficiently enthusiastic to dispense with the usual midsummer recess, and in every respect this is without doubt the most active Chapter in the District. The members mourned the death during the year of Ex. Comp. Frank Dalby, of Elora, who was widely known and esteemed as an old and steadfast Mason, of a kindly and generous nature.

Enterprise No. 67, Harriston.—I visited Enterprise Chapter at its regular meeting for November and also at a special meeting held on the 20th December. At the former the Mark Degree was conferred upon three candidates and at the latter five candidates received the Royal Arch. The work on each occasion was fairly well done by the regular officers—First Principal Leighton and Second Principal Livingston are worthy of much commendation for the proficiency manifested

in the performance of their duties. At the close of both meetings a most enjoyable hour was spent at the refreshment table. I am under special obligations for assistance rendered during my visits by Ex Comp. R. Dowling—a most enthusiastic Mason—to whom this Chapter owes much of its success. The statistical table indicates a substantial addition to the list of members during the year, and the prospects of the Chapter may be regarded as reasonably hopeful.

Berlin No. 117, Berlin.—My visit to Berlin was paid at the regular November convocation. The officers for the year—most of whom had been re-elected—were duly installed during the evening. No work was presented for inspection—the Chapter and intermediate degrees were however opened and closed in quite a satisfactory manner, and I feel assured that under the direction of First Principal Oelschlager—a well skilled officer with an impressive delivery—that the new staff will give a good account of itself. The Chapter books are in excellent order, but I would recommend the Scribe E. to be more careful in transmitting notices of meetings to the District Superintendent. I consider Berlin Chapter to be in a healthy condition, but would expect more rapid advancement than has so far been shown in this important business and industrial centre.

Waterloo No. 32, Galt.—This Chapter was visited at its regular meeting held on December 13th, when the newly elected officers were installed. As there were no candidates for advancement in any of the degrees, no opportunity was presented for judging of the efficiency of the officers. From what I know of them personally, I feel safe in asserting that they will amply justify the confidence placed in them by their Companions. I note with pleasure that R. E. Comp. Taylor, P.G.S., is regular in his attendance and can be counted on to promote by every means in his power the interests of Capitular Masonry in this prosperous town. The books are in charge of Comp. A. J. Oliver, most favorably known throughout the District for services rendered to Craft Masonry as D.D.G.M., and it is needless to say that the business interests of Waterloo Chapter are well looked after. It is subject for regret, however, that the records show absolutely no advancement during the year in the membership roll. The Chapter has some four or five tributary Lodges, is located in one of the solid towns of Ontario, and the showing should be better. Let us hope that the comiug year may be more propitious.

IONIC NO. 83, ORANGEVILLE.—This is the Chapter with which I am affiliated, and my official visit was paid to it on the 14th December, when the officers for the ensuing year were elected. The members have made choice of an excellent official staff, from whom much will be expected. The showing of the past year indicates that the additions to the roll are offset with losses by death and withdrawal. The attendance at the meetings has been fully up to the average of the District. It is a pleasure to note that in this, as in most Chapters, a goodly number of the Past Principals give regular attendance and faithful assistance in maintaining an interest in the proceedings and work. To Ex. Comp. Robert Irvine, the retiring First Principal, is due much credit for high efficiency attained as presiding officer and for zealous attention to duty. The Companions regret the removal to Toronto of V. Ex. Comp. J. C. Brown, a most enthusiastic helper in both Capitular aud Craft Masonry, and commend him to the kindly notice of the Companions and Brethren of the Queen City. Ionic Chapter mourns the death of one member in the person of Comp. Archibald Smith, who died suddenly on the 11th August last, at Crow's Nest Pass, C. P. R. With an improving business outlook there is good reason to hope that satisfactory progress will be made during the coming year.

SEYMOUR NO. 38, SHELBURNE —This Chapter met with disaster in January of last year, when its warrant, furniture and all its effects, except the books, were destroyed by fire, since which time no meeting has been held. During the year I have taken occasion to interview several of the members with the purpose of promoting a revival of the interest, but in the absence of a proper meeeting place nothing could be done. Lorne Lodge, Shelburne, with which Seymour Chapter had made its Masonic home, having recently furnished new and handsome quarters, I took occasion to attend a meeting of the Lodge on the 7th January, instant, with the purpose of making a final effort at reorganizing the Chapter. I interviewed all the members within reach, but for the present failed to accomplish anything. All expressed their continued interest in Capitular Masonry, and hoped in the near future to see the Chapter revived. I recommend to the good offices of my successor the care of this Chapter. It may be noted that the lack of insurance on the outfit, and the consequent financial loss, is the main cause of the present difficulty. The attention of other Chapters is called to the need which exists for

protecting themselves from similar trouble by a proper measure of insurance With the exception of Waterloo Chapter, not a single Chapter in the District reports having insurance effected on its property.

Speaking generally, the result of my inspection, and also of my observation for many years, leads me to say that the direction of the Chapters is mostly in the hands of Companions of good ability—in the greater number of cases they are not men of leisure, but having business to do in this work-a-day world, who give to the Craft as freely of their time as circumstances warrant—and are deeply impressed with the grandeur of the system and the beauty of its teachings, which in the main they endeavor to convey pure and unsullied to those desiring knowledge of the mysteries. On all hands it is conceded that the ceremonies as revised and approved by Grand Chapter are a vast improvement, in every respect, over those formerly communicated.

Notwithstanding these facts, it requires a mighty effort to grow enthusiastic over the advancement made in membership or in attendance at our meetings. Wellington District includes two of the most populous and progressive Counties in the Province, but a reference to the statistical table annexed shows that the net increase during the past year is only twenty-four, and the average attendance of members and visitors at the meetings only about fourteen. It would seem to be in order for our Companions of the Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry to suggest a cause and to provide a remedy for the inanition which seems almost to presage death. Are there too many societies? If not, or if it is to be a case of the survival of the fittest, how are we to "make our calling and election sure"? There is do doubt about the progress of Craft Masonry and the loyalty of its members to the institution. If there are too many societies, would it be in order to suggest a reunion of Craft and Capitular Masonry? If it is desirable to maintain the Capitular grade, would it be proper to hint at affiliation in another direction with another struggling organization a step or two beyond, thus rounding up the system and increasing its interest and importance?

At every meeting attended during my tour of inspection I was most hospitably entertained by the Companions—the occasion being seized as an opportunity for a social reunion, and I am fully persuaded that this feature of these visits must prove not only of personal, but of general benefit to the Craft.

My thanks are specially due to R. E. Comp. Mahoney, of Guelph, for his kindness in accompanying me, and for counsel and help given, during my official visitations to the Chapters at Guelph, Berlin, Harriston and Galt. I am also under much obligation to R. E. Comp. McLaren, of Orangeville, who attended with me and installed the officers of Waterloo Chapter, Galt, and who also seconded me in my effort to reorganize Seymour Chapter, at Shelburne. In conclusion, I beg to surrender my "seals of office," having only the happiest memories of my official connection with the Chapters and Companions of the District, and with a fervent hope that prosperity and success may attend them in all their efforts, personal as well as fraternal.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT MANN,
Grand Supt, Wellington District.

GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA.

Statistical Table showing work done and condition of Chapters in the Wellington District during the Year 1897-1898.

No.	Name of Chapter.	Where Held.	Meet'gs Held.			Aver'ge Atten'c			Annual Dues.	No. Members Last Return.	No. Petitions Accepted.	Candidates Initiated.	Affiliations.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Present Membership.	Degrees Conf'r'd			No. of Members 12 Months in Arrears.	Liabilities of Chapter.	Assets of Chapter.				Amount of Insurance.	Prospects of Chapter.	Can Ex. Z. work all Degrees?
			Regular.	Emergent.	Total.	Members.	Visitors.	Total.											Mark Master.	M. E. M.	Royal Arch.			Cash or Securities.	Property.	Dues Outstanding.	Total.			
32	Waterloo	Galt	4	..	4	15	3	18	$2 00	51	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	51	..	..	..	....	..	$75 00	$100 00	$54 00	$229 00	*	Better	Yes.
38	Seymour	Shelburne	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 00	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	..	..	..	28	..	25 00	.....	56 00	81 00	..	Not good.	Yes.
40	Guelph	Guelph	12	2	14	20	4	24	2 00	61	17	14	..	..	..	2	1	72	14	11	9	....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	Good.	Yes.
67	Enterprise	Harriston	11	1	12	13	1	14	1 00	24	8	8	1	..	..	..	..	33	8	7	7	8	..	25 00	200 00	8 00	233 00	..	Good.	Yes.
83	Ionic	Orangeville	8	..	8	12	2	14	1 00	53	3	2	....	..	1	..	1	53	2	2	2	17	..	50 00	100 00	51 00	201 00	..	Good.	Yes.
117	Berlin	Berlin	6	5	11	11	2	13	3 00	22	5	5	..	..	1	..	..	26	5	7	7	..	..	.....	100 00	40 00	140 00	..	Good.	Yes.

* Insured conjointly with Craft Lodge.

HAMILTON DISTRICT, No. 5.

To the Most Excellent Grand Z., Principal and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I beg herewith to submit my report as Grand Superintendent of the Hamilton District, No. 5, R. A. M., for the year 1897.

The District comprising, as it does, only four Chapters, viz.:—Hiram No. 2, and St. John's No. 6, of the City of Hamilton; St. Clair No. 75, of the Town of Milton, and White Oak No. 104, of the Village of Oakville; all easily accessible, makes a very easy and pleasant task for the G. Supt. of the District.

The two city Chapters have met regularly, and have each accomplished a fair amount of work, although each shows a small decrease in membership. This is to be accounted for by the fact that the death-rate has been unusually large, and that many Companions residing out of the city have taken their demit to join other Chapters. The character of the work done by each has been above criticism, both Principals and subordinate officers excelling in their several parts.

The financial condition of both Chapters is excellent, and future prospects very bright.

White Oak Chapter, the youngest in the District, is doing good work, and has a splendid staff of officers, who thoroughly understand their work. Their financial condition is good, and future prospects bright.

St. Clair Chapter is the one weak sister in the Capitular family. They have only held six meetings during the past year, and have done very little work. The interest in this Chapter seems to be held by a very few, who do not seem to be able to impart any of their own enthusiasm to the members generally, or to enlist recruits from the Lodges contributory to them. On the occasion of my official visit, I took the opportunity to advise them to make up a party of Royal Arch Masons to visit the adjoining Blue Lodge at Georgetown, and also the Lodge in their own town, and endeavor to get up some enthusiasm amongst the Master Masons for advancement to the Royal Arch. Unless something of this kind is done, the Chapter will undoubtedly die of dry rot.

R. E. Comps. Fraser and Panton, V. E. Comp. Hoff, and a very few others, deserve every credit for their efforts to hold the Chapter together under such adverse circumstances.

On October 12th, I officially visited St. Clair Chapter No. 75, Milton. The attendance was very small, owing partly to the fact that one of the most popular Masons in the District, the late Col. Campbell, was buried the day previously, and many of the members having to drive a long distance, were indisposed to do so two days in succession.

The First Principal was absent, and most of the officers; in fact, the visitors who accompanied me from Hamilton outnumbered the members. There was no work, and not much prospect of any. On this occasion I was accompanied by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, G H., R. E. Comps. W. Birrell and T. M. Davis, E. Comp. F. Walter and W. J. McAllister, and others.

On November 23rd, accompanied by R. E. Comps. Reid, Birrell and Davis, V. E. Comp. H. Sweetman, Ex. Comps. F. Walter, T. Smith, A. T. Neill, W. R. Job, W. E. Brown, W. Teal, and others, I paid an official visit to White Oak Chapter No. 104, Oakville. The Mark Degree was exemplified in a most commendable manner by the regular officers. The finances of the Chapter are in a good condition. The hospitality to the Grand Supt. and the large number of Comps. who accompanied him was most marked.

I officially visited Hiram Chapter No. 2, on November 26th, and presided at the election of officers. The Royal Arch Degree was most correctly and impressively worked by the regular officers.

On December 9th, I paid an official visit to my mother Chapter St. John No. 6. It was the occasion of the election of officers for the ensuing year, and also a Reunion of the Past Principals of the Chapter, who occupied the various chairs in working the Royal Arch. It is not necessary for me to say, that with a staff of Past Z's., such as St. John can produce, with M. E. Comp. J. J. Mason as First Principal, the degree was well rendered.

The Chapter was honored on this occasion by a visit from the M. Ex. Grand Z., R. Ex. Grand H., M. Ex. Grand Scribe E., R. Ex. Grand Treasurer, and others distinguished in the Royal Craft.

Our Chapters have lost a number of their Companions by death, who were all sincerely regretted; but I may say that in the loss of V. Ex. Comp. Harry Sweetman, who died December 5th, Capitular Masonry generally, and Hiram Chapter in particular, has lost a Companion whose place will be hard to fill, who had endeared himself to all by his many excellent qualities of head and heart, who was no man's enemy, but everybodies' friend.

I regret that, owing to absence from the city during the early half of the year, I was unable to hold a Chapter of Instruction as I wished, and found it impossible to make a date in the latter part of the year that would suit all the Chapters, owing to the many Masonic engagements, occurring after settling down after the summer lassitude. But from frequent inspection of the work of three of the Chapters, I am satisfied that from its close attention to the Ritual, each Body is a Chapter of Instruction in itself. As regards the other Chapter, it is not instruction in the work, but an infusion of new blood it requires.

The year has been an entirely pleasant and harmonious one, there have been no disagreements or appeals brought to my notice. Harmony prevails through the District.

In conclusion, I would thank the many Companions who have helped to make my labors pleasant by their assistance and advice, especially my immediate predecessors, Rt. Ex. Comps. Davis and Birrell, and Ex. Comp. Fred. Walter, who has acted as District Secretary.

Fraternally submitted,

THOMAS McCALLUM,
Grand Supt. of Works,
Hamilton District.

HURON DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z, Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I herewith submit my report on the condition of Capitular Masonary in Huron District, No. 6, for the year 1897. Out of the eight Chapters in the District I visited seven, and found them in a healthy condition and all able to confer the several degrees. I am pleased to report that '97 was a very much more prosperous year in most of the Chapters than

1896. The Chapter not visited was Exeter, No. 85, Exeter. I arranged to visit this Chapter on two different occasions and each time received word from the S. E. not to go as there would be no meeting. In September the Grand Z. stopped over one night on his way to Kincardine and succeeded in getting enough Companions together to open a Chapter and a promise was then made that they would make another effort to get the Chapter into working order and although the notices have been regularly sent out since that date by the S. E. they have failed to get enough together to hold a meeting, and the S. E. writes to me that he sees no better prospect for the future and advises the surrender of the Charter. Considering the length of time that this Chapter has been dormant and the large territory it occupies, which could be used to advantage by other Chapters in the vicinity, it is my recommendation that the warrant of Exeter Chapter, No. 85, be withdrawn by Grand Chapter.

Tecumseh Chapter, No. 24. Stratford.—The M. E. Grand Z. and R. E. Comp. G. W. Reid, Grand H., were present by invitation the evening I paid my official visit to this Chapter. Two candidates were exalted by Ex. Comp. McLellan, the First Principal, assisted by his other officers, and the work done was perfect in every detail. Too much praise cannot be given to this Chapter for the manner in which it is governed. It is a model Chapter in every particular. Eleven new candidates were admitted during the year making a total membership of one hundred and ten. If any Companions should be in Stratford on the first Tuesday of any month they should not fail to visit Tecumseh Chapter. They will be made welcome and will see how the work should be done.

Huron Chapter, No. 30, Goderich.—I visited this Chapter in November and saw the M. M. degree conferred. The work was only passably well done, but the prospect of the Chapter is very much brighter than a year ago. Last year (1896) it was at a standstill, few meetings and no candidates. This year they have received seven candidates and met fairly regularly. The feeling among the Companions is that in a few months they will once more rank amongst the first Chapters in the District, and with the material they have there is nothing to prevent it. Their present membership is 50, but they have too many members over a year in arrears. It would materially strengthen the Chapter to have that number reduced.

St. James' Chapter, No. 45, St. Mary's.—This Chapter has not made the progress during the past year that I should have liked to have seen. The officers are well up in their work and do it creditably, but the attendance has been very poor to a great extent owing to three or four of the officers being away on business during the summer months. They have four candidates who promise to come in at the January meeting, and I believe that the showing for 1898 will be greatly in advance of 1897.

Saugeen Chapter, No. 50, Mitchell.—This Chapter continues on the upward path. It now numbers 23 members, an increase for the year of 7. On my official visit two candidates were exalted. The officers are well up in their work and do it perfectly. They meet regularly and the attendance is good. It is a pleasure to visit this Chapter, to see the business way they manage it and the good feeling that exists among the Companions. Saugeen Chapter is all right.

Havelock Chapter, No. 63, Kincardine.—On my official visit to the Chapter I had again the pleasure of meeting with the M. E., the Grand Z. An enjoyable and I trust profitable evening was spent. Two candidates were exalted by the regular officers of the Chapter, and the work was done in a very creditable and satisfactory manner. The attendance of the members of this Chapter is good and the meetings were held regularly. The books are well kept and the finances are in good shape. There should be an effort made to reduce the outstanding dues as they are too large for the size of the Chapter. This Chapter stands among the first in the District and its future prospects are good. They have a membership of 49.

Malloch Chapter, No. 66, Seaforth.—I paid my official visit to this Chapter in November. Of this Chapter I am glad to report that the cloud that was hanging over it, owing to internal dissensions, has entirely passed away and it is again taking its old place in the District as a vigorous and strong Chapter. I saw two candidates exalted and was well pleased with the impressive manner in which the work was done. The First Principal and all his officers thoroughly understand their work and do it well. The books of the S. E. are well kept and are a credit to any Chapter. Four candidates were initiated during the past year making a total membership of 27. This Chapter promises well for the future.

LEBENON CHAPTER, No 84, Wingham.—It is with satisfaction that I have to report that this Chapter has received more candidates during the past year in proportion to its size than any other Chapter in the District. Last report their total membership was 25. Since that date they initiated 11 new members. On my official visit two candidates were exalted by the regular officers of the Chapter and the work was well done. The books of S. E. are well kept. The finances are in good shape with only three members over twelve months in arrears. It would be well if all Chapters could make the same report. The Companions meet regularly and the attendance is above the average. I have no fear for this Chapter's future success.

I herewith attach a statement received from the different Chapters of the District giving information in detail of the financial condition, the membership, and other statistics. This is necessary to arrive at a proper knowledge of the position of the several Chapters of the District.

In conclusion I would take this opportunity of thanking the Companions of the different Chapters for the cordial manner in which I was received when on my official visit, and the kind spirit in which they received any criticism I felt it my duty to make.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

H. FRED SHARPE,
Grand Supt. Huron District.

CHAPTERS.	Meetings.			Attendance.		Annual Dues.	MEMBERSHIP.								Degrees Conferred.			Members 12 months in arrears	Liabilities.	Assets.	Cash or Securities.	Dues Outstanding.	Insurance.	Prospects.	Can Ex. Z. work all Degrees.
	Regular	Emergency	Total	Average	Visitors		No. as Per Last Returns.	Petitions Accepted.	Candidates Initiated.	Affiliations.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Present Membership	M. M. M.	M. E. M.	R. A.							
Tecumseh, No. 24	9	4	13	20	2	$1.00	102	14	11	..	..	1	2	..	110	11	11	12	43	$25	$400.00	$187.70	$ 60.00	....	Good.	Yes.
Huron, " 30	7	7	14	18	3	2 00	42	7	7	1	..	..	..	..	50	7	7	7	20	..	390.00	15.00	75.00	$200	Good.	Yes.
St. James, " 45	6	..	6	12	1	1.00	22	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	24	2	2	2	10	40	75.00	.....	20.00	....	Good.	Yes.
Saugeen. " 50	9	.	9	10	1	1.50 3.00	17	6	6	.		..	.	..	23	6	5	5	7	..	120.00	28.80	35.90	....	Good,	Yes.
Havelock, " 63	11	..	11	14	1	2.00	46	3	4	.	.	..	..	1	49	4	4	4	15	..	300.00	.....	134.00	200	Fair.	Yes.
Mallock, " 66	12	..	12	..	..	1.50 3.00	23	4	4	.	.	..	..	..	27	4	4	4		..	.....	.....	.....	100	Good.	Yes.
Lebanon, " 84	9	2	11	13	1	1.50 3.00	25	11	11	..	..	2	..	2	32	11	11	12	3	..	173.82	73.82	.....	....	Good.	Yes.
Exeter, " 85	1	1	2	10	1	2.00	27	.	..	..	..	..	..	1	26	..	..	..	26	..	.....	.....	.....	....	Notgood	Yes.

St. Catharines, Ont., Jan. 11th, 1898.

NIAGARA DISTRICT, No. 7.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

As Grand Superintendent of Niagara District, No. 7, for the year 1897, I have to report as follows:—

During the year I have visited the following Chapters, viz.:—

Niagara Chapter, No. 55, R. A. M., and Niagara on the Lake.
Wilson. " " 64, " Holland.
Mt. Nebo, " " 76, " Niagara Falls South.
Mt. Moriah " " 19, " St. Catharines.

I have tried to visit Grimsby Chapter at Grimsby, and McCallum Chapter at Dunville, but from a lack of co-operation on their part, have been unable to do so.

During my visits to the Chapters I have inspected the various books, and find them well and neatly kept, and the Scribes E. faithfully performing their duties; and I have tried to impress on officers and members the necessity of having officers well skilled in the work; books well kept, and finances well in hand; and while some are fully up in these matters others can be improved.

I may say in regard to Niagara Chapter, No. 55, that it is difficult to get the officers and members together during the summer months, as many of them are engaged in agricultural pursuits, which then demands their full time, hence they are not as well skilled in the work as could be wished, but with encouragement to the new officers about to be installed, I have no doubt further progress and improvement will be made.

I have brought the subject of a Chapter of Instruction before some of the Chapters, but so far have not been able to decide when and where to hold it. It is now being considered by Mount Moriah Chapter, and a committee was appointed at our last meeting to consider the same. There is really but two places suitable in the district for holding such meetings, viz., Welland and St. Catharines, on account of distances and difficulty of reaching it.

I enclose summary of information from the Chapters who have replied, and have written (January 1st), to Grimsby and McCallum Chapters to forward reports at once, but have not

heard from them since; should they send in the course of a day or two I will forward same to you.

I feel satisfied from what I have seen, that with the improvement in the times and the interest taken in the work, that this District will show a decided advance the coming year.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

GEORGE BURCH,
Grand Supt., Niagara District.

TORONTO DISTRICT, No. 8.

To the Most Excellent of the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

As Grand Superintendent of the Eighth, or Toronto District, I have the honor to submit my report of the work of the Royal Arch Chapters in my jurisdiction for the period which has elapsed since I assumed the duties of the office in January, 1897.

The Chapters comprising the District are:

St. Andrew and St. John, No. 4.

King Solomon, No. 8; Doric, No. 60, Newmarket

York, No. 62, Eglinton; St. Paul's, No. 65; Occident, No. 77.

Orient, No. 79; and Antiquity, No. 91.

I have visited all the Chapters in the District; some of them several times, and I am pleased to be able to report that all the Chapters in the City of Toronto are in good condition with very fair prospects. York Chapter, No. 62, Eglinton, appears to have justified the hopes of my predecessor, having experienced somewhat of a revival of interest in the work, and has added two new members to its roll.

DORIC CHAPTER, No. 60, Newmarket, has not prospered as was expected, but from the determination of the officers and members, recently expressed, I am led to hope that a revival will take place in that Chapter. Two of the Toronto Chapters, viz., St. Andrew and St. John. No. 4, and King Solomon's, No. 8, have removed from their old quarters on Toronto Street, to the new rooms in the Temple Building, and it is anticipated that Occident Chapter, No. 77, will soon follow suit. The new appartments are commodious and comfortable in every respect, being furnished and adorned

in the most approved modern fashion, making it a home worthy of the craft. This move will, it is thought, stimulate the companions to greater exertions, and result in a greatly increased membership in the Chapters mentioned. Another question which is being discussed by the Toronto Chapters, is that of the Exaltation fee; when the Grand Chapter permitted the reduction of the fee to $10.00, all the Toronto Chapters, with one exception, that of St. Paul's, No. 65, reduced the fee to the limit allowed; this fee has been found to be insufficient to supply the necessary Chapter funds, hence the agitation to raise the fee. In one of the Chapters, lately visited by me, notice was given of a motion to raise the fee to $15 00. In another to raise it to $20.00, the fee to include the R. A. apron and sash.

From the opinions expressed by the companions throughout the District, I am satisfied that the reduction of the fee by the City Chapters was a mistake, and after having given the lower fee a fair trial, they will, without doubt, substitute the higher one in the near future.

My first act upon entering on the duties of my office was the appointment of Ex. Comp. W. Murdock, Z. of Occident Chapter, No 77, as District Secretary, and he has performed the duties of the office to my entire satisfaction. Early in February I sent a circular letter to the first Principals in my jurisdiction, asking for their support and co-operation during my term of office, and calling their attention to several matters in which some of the Chapters in the District could effect improvement. I also requested the Chapters to vote a sufficient sum to purchase a new set of regalia for the use of the Grand Superintendent, the old set being in a very dilapidated condition, having been in constant use for fifteen years. The request was promptly and cheerfully responded to.

St. Andrew and St. John, No. 4.—I paid my first official visit to this Chapter on June 18th, all the officers being in their places, and about 25 companions present; all the degrees were worked; the M. M. M. by Ex. Comp. Clewlo J., who is one of the best ritualists it has ever been my lot to hear, the M. E. M. by Ex. Comp. Jones, H. who did his work very well, and the Royal Arch by Ex. Comp. John McCurrah, Z., the work of the latter was rendered letter perfect; the P. S. also did his work well, the only blemish that could be detected being the slightly hurried manner of some of the officers, arising no doubt from the consciousness that they

were being criticized. I visited this Chapter again on Dec. 17th, which was the last Masonic meeting held in the old Hall on Toronto Street, which has been the home of the craft in Toronto for upwards of thirty years. There was no degree work on that occasion, but the Chapter elected officers for the ensuing year ; each of the officers received his well-earned step of promotion. The books of this Chapter are well kept ; the Chapter is in a good condition financially, although the number of companions in arrears for dues is rather too large. The property of the Chapter is fully covered by insurance, and under the present capable staff of officers, ought to continue to flourish.

King Solomon's Chapter No. 8. This is the largest Chapter in the district and although twelve candidates were initiated during the year the returns show a slight decrease in membership, due to the fact that the Chapter lost heavily from withdrawals, suspensions, and deaths. The most lively interest is manifested in the work of the Chapter by the Officers and Companions under the able management of Ex. Comp. Jas. S. Lovell, Z., who is a most painstaking and efficient officer. I visited this Chapter on Friday, April 2nd, when the Mark and M. E. M. degrees were exemplified by Ex. Comp. Porteous, H. in a most satisfactory manner. I have had frequent proof of the ability of this Ex Companion to perform the work when visiting other Chapters where he has been called upon to assist in portions of the ceremonies. I again visited this Chapter on June 4th, when the R. A. degree was exemplified by the officers in a manner highly creditable to themselves. In no Chapter in the District have I seen the work better performed. King Solomon's Chapter is to be congratulated on the array of Past Principals who are regular attendants and who are ever ready with their advice and assistance ; chief amongst them may be mentioned M. Ex. Comp. Thos. Sargant, Rt. Ex. Comp. A. Patterson and Ex. Comp. Woodstock. The Chapter is in a very good condition financially, is fully insured and has an average attendance of thirty-one. The books of the Chapter are very neatly and efficiently kept by Comp John Roberts, S. E , the prospects of the Chapter are very good indeed.

Doric Chapter No. 60, Newmarket, has held two regular convocations and one emergent during the year, but has done no work ; the great difficulty with Doric Chapter appears to be the lack of local membership sufficient to always guarantee a quorum ; the bulk of the membership being drawn from the

surrounding country, when the roads are bad it is well nigh impossible to hold a Chapter meeting; this, with the consequent discouragement of the officers, has had a very bad effect upon the Chapter I visited the Chapter recently in company with the Most Excellent the Grand Z. and Rt. Ex. Comp. P. T. Lee, and the officers and members pledged themselves to make another attempt to revive the Chapter, and I have strong hopes that with a little outside assistance the effort will succeed.

York Chapter No. 62, Eglington. I visited this Chapter on May 6th. No degree work was done on that occasion, but the officers proved themselves capable of performing the opening and closing ceremonies and conducting the business of the Chapter in a most satisfactory manner.

Accompanied by Ex. Comp. Wm. Murdock, Z., and the officers and members of Occident Chapter No, 77, I again visited this Chapter on June 3rd, when two brethren were exalted to the R. A. degree by the officers of the Chapter, Ex. Comp. W. E. Hofland, Z., especially performing his work in a creditable manner. A noticeable feature of this Chapter is the number of past Z's who take an active interest in the work. The books of the Chapter are very well kept by V. Ex. Comp. John McCarter, the amount of outstanding dues is altogether too large, the present membership being thirty-nine, twenty six of whom are in arrears for dues. A determined effort should be made to remedy this state of affairs and place the Chapter in a good position financially.

St. Paul's Chapter No. 65, Toronto, meets on the second Wednesday in each month at the Yonge St. Masonic Hall. My first visit to this Chapter was an informal one, having been invited by the Ex. Z. Comp Shepley, Grand J. who is a member of this Chapter, a very enjoyable evening was spent on that occasion.

I again visited the Chapter on June 9th, and December 8th, but on neither of these occasions was I fortunate enough to see any degree work performed; that the officers of St. Paul's Chapter can work the degrees in a manner unsurpassed by any Chapter in the district, was amply demonstrated at the Chapter of Instructions held on November 30th, when St. Paul's Chapter worked the R. A. degree in a most satisfactory manner. The affairs of this Chapter are well managed; this is shown by its excellent financial standing; the assets of the Chapter are given as $1063.71, liabilities none, this is an excellent showing and reflects credit on the management of the

Ex. Comp. John McKnight, Z. and his staff of officers. One of the chief causes of the prosperity of this Chapter is the active interest taken in its affairs by such old and tried companions as Rt. Ex. Comp W. G. Eakin, Aubrey White, Ben. Allen, and others, who are always on hand with assistance and advice. Fifteen petitions have been accepted, six candidates initiated, and the prospects for the future of St. Paul's Chapter are very bright.

Occident Chapter No. 77, Toronto. This being my mother Chapter, I, of course, visited it frequently in the course of the year. My first official visit was paid to the Chapter on February 12th, on which occasion the M. M. M. degree was exemplified by Ex. Comp. J. J. Thompson, H. in a very satisfactory manner, being well supported by the subordinate officers.

I again visited the Chapter officially July 9th, when, notwithstanding the extreme heat then prevailing, the Royal Arch degree was worked by Ex. Comp. Wm. Murdock, Z, and the officers of the Chapter; with the exception of some minor matters of detail, which more frequent rehearsals would remedy, the work was very well done, especially that of the First Principal. I again visited the Chapter on November 12th, when the Royal Arch degree was again worked and an improvement noted. This Chapter will show a slight decrease in membership owing to the cutting away of a lot of dead wood in the shape of suspensions for N. P. D. There is, however, too large an amount of dues outstanding which the newly elected officers hope to reduce in the near future. Early in the year I granted a dispensation to Occident Chapter to remove from the quarters occupied by them to the old meeting place in Occident Hall. It is expected that in the near future the Chapter will cast in its lot with the Chapters meeting in the new Temple Building The financial standing of the Chapter is not very good, but a prosperous year is anticipated. Ex. Comp. J. J. Thompson, the newly elected Z., has made a reputation for himself in Craft Masonry, and he is expected to maintain it in the Royal Arch. The Chapter has begun the year well by accepting a number of applications for Chapter degrees.

Orient Chapter No. 79, Toronto.—Meets in Orient lodge room in the extreme east of the City or "over the Don," as the Companions say, this is one of the flourishing chapters of the District; showing a very fair financial statement and an increase in membership. I visited this Chapter Feb. 25th,

when the degree M.M.M. was exemplified by Ex. Comp. Thompson, J., and the M E.M. by Ex. Comp. Mason, H. both degrees being very well worked by them although some of the minor officers needed a little more drilling I again visited the Chapter on October 28th, on which occasion the Royal Arch degree was exemplified by Ex. Comp. McMaster, Z. and the Principals and Officers of the Chapter. The work of the Principals was very well done indeed, especially that of the First Principal and the I. P. Z. Ex Comp. Foster who delivered the charge at the altar in a most impressive manner. The pleasure of hearing the work so well rendered was, however, somewhat marred by the noise of the street cars, a fife and drum band practising on a neighboring corner, and a brass band in a building opposite. The books of the Chapter are neatly and correctly kept by Comp. E. H. Briggs. Thirteen petitions have been accepted and nine candidates initiated during the year and I am assured that the prospects of the Chapter are very good.

Antiquity Chapter No. 91, Toronto. — Meets in Zeta lodge room, Parkdale in the Western portion of the City and shows a substantial increase in membership for the year; eighteen petitions have been accepted and twelve candidates initiated. I visited this Chapter twice during the year but was not fortunate enough to see any degree work exemplified, although I am informed that the officers can work all the degrees satisfactorily and that under the able management of the First Principal Ex. Companion, R. B. Orr, M.D, assisted by the officers, the Chapter has had a most prosperous year. Among the most valuable members may be mentioned Rt. Ex. Comp., Wm. Walker, Treasurer, who has been a father to the Chapter and is always present to assist in its management with his wise counsel and advice. The books of the Chapter are models of neatness and accuracy and great credit is due to Comp Francis Blackburne, S.E., for the excellent manner in which they are kept. There is every prospect for a bright future before the Chapter.

Having been notified early in the month of November by M. Ex. Comp. Sargant G.S.E. that Most Excellent Comp. M. Walsh, Grand Z. would like an opportunity to meet the Companions of the Toronto District and see some of the Chapters exemplify the work of the degrees. I called a meeting of the Z's of the City Chapters and arranged for holding a Chapter of Instruction and Reception to the H. Ex. Grand Z. which was carried out on Nov. 30th. On which occasion the work was exemplified by the following Chapters:

The opening and closing ceremonies—

King Solomon Chapter No. 8.

M.M.M. St. Andrew & St. John's Chapter No. 4.

M.E.M. Orient Chapter No. 79.

Royal Arch St. Paul's Chapter No. 65.

The turn out of the members was large and the M. Ex. the Grand Z, expressed himself as highly pleased with the manner in which the work was done. Altogether it was one of the most successful Chapters of Instruction ever held in the City of Toronto.

In conclusion I desire to return my most sincere thanks to the Companions of the Toronto District for the kindness and courtesy extended to me during my term of office and to express my regret that my business engagements prevented my visiting the Chapters as often as I wished, I am satisfied, however, that a prosperous future is before the Toronto District, and that my successor in office will be able to report still greater progress.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

A G. HORWOOD,

Grand Superintendent, Toronto District.

GEORGIAN DISTRICT, No. 9.

To the Most Excellent, The Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

I beg to submit my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Georgian District.

During the year I had the pleasure of visiting all the Chapters in the District, excepting Georgian Chapter, at Owen Sound.

MACPHERSON CHAPTER No. 86, Meaford. I visited this chapter on July 13, 1897, where I had the pleasure of meeting Most Excellent Companion M. Walsh, the Grand Z., and with him examined the books of the Chapter. While the Minute book had not been properly kept in 1896, I found that all the books were in proper form for 1897. From information received, I am of the opinion that the prospects of this Chapter are brighter than they have been for several years.

MANITOU CHAPTER No. 27, Collingwood. I visited ths Chapter on the 14th July, 1897, and again had the pleasure of meeting the Most Ex. the Grand Z. The officers are well up in their work; they exemplified the several degrees in a creditable manner. The books are well kept. The fact

that R. E. Comp. Toner takes an active interest in this Chapter, is a guarantee that there is no laxity in the management of its affairs.

St. John's Chapter No. 103, North Bay. I visited this Chapter on October 1st, 1897, but was unable to have a meeting for the want of a quorum. A Council was opened, which was correctly done.

This Chapter is composed of enthusiastic Masons, the greater number of whom are Railway employees. From their unavoidable absence they are frequently unable to open the Chapter for the want of a quorum. From the members I met, I should say that this Chapter should do good work.

I examined the books and found them correct.

Signet Chapter No. 34, Barrie. I visited this Chapter on the 9th October, 1897, and found everything correct. I must congratulate this Chapter on its staff of officers, particularly its principals. The officers worked the M.M.M., M.E.M. and R A. degrees in a most creditable manner. In fact I cannot see how they could do otherwise, when they have such old heads with them as R. E. Comp. D. F. McWatt, R. E. Comp. G. Monckman, and others.

Georgian Chapter No. 56, Owen Sound. I regret that I was unable to visit this Chapter. I have received the notices of meeting regularly and in looking over them I find that there is either work or notices of passing the ballot on each.

Grand River Chapter No. 70, Bracebridge. This being the Chapter of which I am a member, I did not pay an official visit, but attended all of its stated meetings. I will not make an official report on this Chapter, with the exception of stating that its books are properly kept. I shall leave it to my successor to pass an opinion on the manner in which the work is done.

I find that the Chapters in the District are supplied with the necessaries, so that the degrees can be conferred in a proper manner, with the exception of Signet Chapter No. 34, which has a separate room ; all the others are domiciled in Lodge Rooms.

I herewith annex a tabulated statement of the work done in this district.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the officers and Companions of the District for the honor they have conferred upon me in electing me to the office of Grand Superintendent for this District, and for the cordial manner in which I have been received on all occasions.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

Isaac Huber, *Grand Superintendent.*

TABLE SHOWING THE WORK DONE IN GEORGIAN DISTRICT No. 9 DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1897

Number of Chapter.	NAME OF CHAPTER.	Location.	Membership.			Degrees Conferred.			Applications.	Restorations.	Resignations.	Suspensions, N. P. D.	Suspensions, Other Causes.	Deceased.	Meetings held.			Average Attendance.	No. of Members 12 months in Arrears.	Total of all Arrearage.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Annual Dues.	Prospects of Chapter.	Insurance.	Can Z. work all the Degrees?	Remarks.
			Total of all Members.	Increase during the Year.	Decrease during the Year.	M. M. M.	M. E. M.	R. A. M.							Regular.	Emergent.	Total.										
27	Manito	Collingwood.	52	3	...	4	3	..	2	..	1	..	..	2	9	2	11	16	6	$62 77	221 15		$1 50	Good.	150 00	Yes.	
34	Signet	Barrie	67	4	.	8	7	8	..	..	3	..	..	1	10	1	11	15	19	160 50	500 00	..	.....	Good.	300 00	Yes.	
56	Georgian	Owen Sound	50	2	..	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	6	10	....	.....	.....	..	2 00 & 1 00	Fair.	.....	Yes.	
70	Grand River.	Bracebridge.	42	3	...	3	3	5	..	..	.	..	..	..	6	1	7	13	....	.....	200 00	..	2 00	Good.	None.	Yes.	
86	Macpherson.	Meaford	25	2	...	3	4	3	..	.	..	..	..	..	5	4	9	11	....	44 32	.....	..	.....	Fair.	.....	Yes.	Would have no liabiilties if dues were p'd.
103	St. Johns.	North Bay	27	...	1	..	2	1		...	..	..	..	..	9	..	9	10	32	140 00	375 00	..	....	Fair.	. ...	Yes	

ONTARIO DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z. Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada A. F. & A. M. :

As Grand Superintendent of the above District I have pleasure in making my report for the year 1897, upon the condition of Capitular Masonry under my jurisdiction, but from the reception the reports of the Superintendents received at the hands of the Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry at the last Annual Convocation, I approach this duty with a good deal of mental perturbation.

The Chapters which comprise this District are Pentalpha, No. 35, Whitby ; Corinthian, No. 36, Peterboro' ; Victoria, No. 37, Port Hope ; Excelsior, No. 45, Colbourne ; St. Johns, No. 48, Cobourg ; Midland, No. 94, Lindsay, and Warkworth, No. 110, Warkworth, and of these I have visited all except the last named for which the reason will hereinafter appear.

I am pleased to be able to report an advance in the district and although this cannot be said of each individual Chapter yet the progress of advancing Chapters has been sufficient to more than counter-balance the retrogression of others.

At the suggestion of the Grand Z I convened a Chapter of Instruction which was held at Port Hope on December 21st, under the auspices of Victoria Chapter, and it is most gratifying to myself and to the District that this Chapter of Instruction was a most successful one in every respect.

The fact that the Grand Z, though at considerable sacrifice, was able to be present was enough of itself to ensure a good attendance, and to enlist the ready assistance of many of the Chapters. Owing to the fact that the last preceding communication for instruction was held at Port Hope, I desired to hold this one in Peterborough, but as the railway communications were found to be much more favorable to attend at Port Hope than at Peterborough I decided to hold the Chapter at the place above mentioned.

The Chapter was opened at 3 o'clock, p. m., and the Mark Degree conferred upon two candidates by Ex. Comp W. H. Walkey, 3rd. Principal of Corinthian Chapter, and a staff of officers from Peterboro', after which the M E. M. degree was conferred by Ex. Comp. A. E. Henry and the officers of Pentalpha Chapter, of Oshawa, and in the evening the R. A. degree was conferred by Ex. Comp. Coulter and the officers of Victoria Chapter, Port Hope.

Before the Chapter closed, The Most Ex. Z. gave a masterly and sympathetic address upon the principles of Masonry and upon the work done during the afternoon and evening, and it could not but be eminently pleasing to all present to hear from the Grand First Principal that the exemplification of the different degrees had been on the whole very satisfactory, and where all officers did so well it would be bad taste to particularize; but it is due to Ex. Comp. Henry and his officers to state that it was only on Saturday, 18th December, that they had notice that they would be called upon to do any work, it having been previously arranged that Midland Chapter would confer the M. E M. degree, and it was only on the date mentioned I was informed that that Chapter would not be able to attend.

An excellent programme of music, vocal and instrumental, added much to the enjoyment of the evening, and at a comparatively early hour the companions separated, one and all declaring that the Chapter of Instruction had been a most enjoyable one and at the same time expressing appreciation of the hospitality of the Port Hope Companions.

And now as to the condition of the Chapters individually I regret that I cannot report progress all along the line, and in seeking out the causes for lack of advance I attribute it largely to two—

1st. Too many Masonic bodies in small places. 2nd. Members seeking office.

VISITATION.

My first official visit was made to my own Chapter Corinthian, No. 56, Peterboro', upon the occasion of their installation of officers in May last. I have also attended nearly all the meetings during the year and am pleased to report that this Chapter has resumed its place among the leaders which it had lost during the year 1896 and the early part of 1897. This loss of prestige was a source of great regret to many of this Chapter, but now that brighter days have come we bury the past and look forward to continued progress. The present officers do the work well.

Keystone, No 35, Whitby. I paid this Chapter a visit on 15th October, and was much disappointed. For many years this Chapter held a leading place in the district, but is now certainly not in the front rank. I expressed my views pretty plainly upon my visit, and as I have good reason for believing that the members have determined to bring the work up to the

former status, I will expect my successor to report a better state of things next year.

Excelsior, No. 45, Colborne. Accompanied by R. Ex. Comp. R. A. Morrow, Past Grand Superintendent, I visited this Chapter on 4th November, and was highly pleased with the work of the Chapter, and with its members. The Mark Degree was conferred by Ex. Comp. Goslee, 3rd Principal, and the work was eminently satisfactory There is ample work for this Chapter and the officers are well qualified to do it.

St. John's No. 48, Cobourg. I visited this Chapter on 5th November, when the R. A. Degree was exemplified and the officers elected for the ensuing year ; and when I state that Professor Horning, of Victoria University, and who continues to reside in Cobourg, was elected 1st. Principal, and the Rev. A. H. Rayner, D.D., who also is a Professor in the same University, and makes his home in Cobourg, was elected 3rd Principal, I have said enough to show that this Chapter occupies an unique place among the Chapters, and that the work though of a very high quality in the past will in the future be characterized by a finish and impressiveness heretofore unequalled. St. John has always been an excellent Chapter and was never better than now, and has a bright future.

Midland, No. 94, Lindsay. This is a weak Chapter, and I do not see how matters are to be improved, the membership is large enough but there is lack in energy. R. Ex. Comp. Dingle has been 1st. Principal for a number of years, and was again pressed into service at the election of officers on the occasion of my visit on the 18th November, much against his own wishes. The 2nd. Principal for the preceding year was away from home at the time of my visit and I got but a very poor account of the way in which he had filled or rather failed to fill the office. The Companions certainly were not satisfied with him as he was not elected to any office. Scribe E. is a particularly efficient officer, but one good officer is not sufficient. Midland Chapter is not making the progress it should, and I am at a loss to suggest a way to make it efficient.

Pantalpha Chapter, Oshawa, I visited on the 9th December, and I was surprised and delighted at the progress this Chapter has made during the last couple of years. The R. A. Degree was conferred remarkably well and the energy and industry of the officers knows no bounds. When we remember that it is only three or four years ago that this Chapter was

offered to be given up, and now to see a bright, efficient Chapter, one witnesses the result of a united, conscientious effort by a few energetic workers. Pentalpha Chapter is prosperous.

VICTORIA CHAPTER, Port Hope. I made my official visit upon the 10th December, but as the Chapter of Instruction was to be held ten days thereafter I did not make any inspection. The Companions of Port Hope have a reputation as entertainers, and on this occasion and that of the Chapter of Instruction I think they added to that reputation. The applications are pouring in. The material is excellent and this Chapter is also prosperous.

WARKWORTH CHAPIER. I have made several efforts to get a communication of this Chapter for work during the autumn but in this have entirely failed; but at the convocation held on the 15th instant new officers were elected and two applications for membership received, so that I have a hope that this Chapter will take on new life. If, however, this year is not better than the last the Chapter may as well be surrendered.

I have to thank the Companions of the district for their many kindnesses to me which I shall not soon forget.

I enclose herewith tabulated statement of the standing of the Chapters.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Dated at Peterborough this 31st December, 1897.

R. E. WOOD,
Grand Superintendent,

Ontario District, No. 10.

No.	NAME OF CHAPTER.	No. of Regular Meetings.	No. of Emergent Meetings.	Total Meetings.	Average Attendance of Members.	Average of Visitors.	No. of Members as per last Return.	Petitions Accepted.	Candidates Initiated.	Affiliations.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Present Membership.	M.M.M. Degrees Conferred.	M.E.M. Degrees Conferred.	R.A. Degrees Conferred.	No. of Members 12 months in Arrears.	Liabilities.	Assets.	In Cash.	In Property.	Dues Outstanding.	Amount of Insurance.	Prospects.	Can Ex. Z. work all the Degrees?
28	Pentalpha ..	7	1	8	15	3	45	4	5	0	0	3	7	1	39	5	5	4	None	Nil	$ 400 00	$0 00	$400 00	$0 00	$200	Good	Yes.
35	Keystone ...	No Return.																									
36	Corinthian ..	9	1	10	17	2	69	3	2	0	0	1	3	0	66	2	1	1	16	$50	1000 00	20 00	1000 00	125 00	$666	Good	Yes.
37	Victoria	12	2	14	15	5	44	7	6	0	0	0	0	1	49	6	8	8	19	Nil	745 06	295 06	450 00	158 09	$300	Good	Yes.
48	St. Johns ...	No Return.																									
45	Excelsior....	11	0	11	16	1	56	5	1	0	1	0	1	1	58	1	3	2	None	Nil	187 00	75 00	None	8 00	$150	A 1	Yes.
94	Midland	9	1	10	12	1	38	10	7	0	0	1	4	0	40	7	7	8	2	$46	290 00	61 00	200 00	18 50	$150	Good	Yes, with a little preparation.
110	Warkworth..	5	0	5	15	0	27	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	31	4	4	4	7	Nil	300 00	0 00	0 00	7 00	$0	Very Good	Yes.

I certify that the foregoing is a statement of the returns made to me by the Chapters as above indicated.

R. G. WOOD, *Grand Supt. Ont. Dist. No. 10.*

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z, Principals, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

There does not seem to have been any material change in the conditions or prospects of the Royal Arch Masonry in this District since the Report of the Past Grand Superintendent Webster was presented to Grand Chapter in January last, and the individual Chapters are in about the same position as they were a year ago. The actual work accomplished appears in the Appendix annexed, which is a fair index of the relative activity found in the different Chapters.

All the Chapters of the District were visited by the Grand Superintendent early in the Masonic year and with the exception of St. Mark's Chapter, Trenton, a favorable presentation of the secret work and general management of the Chapters was presented to your representative. The Companions were most courteous in their reception and were apparently imbued with a desire to advance the interests of the Royal Craft. Exhibitions of the Royal Arch Degree were presented in Moira and Prince Edward Chapters which did credit to the officers and were in accordance with the Ritual of the Grand Chapter. They may be considered the Banner Chapters of the District. Prince Edward Chapter should at once place an insurance on its paraphernalia.

In Mt. Sinai a presentation of the Mark Degree was given, and in the absence of a candidate the Companions of Keystone Chapter, Stirling, performed the formal opening and closing ceremonies of the various Degrees in a manner which, if equalled throughout all the work, is not susceptible in fault finding. This Chapter bids fair to, in time, equal some of its older sisters and the only criticism to be made is upon the lateness of the hour at which the Companions assemble and the absence of certain paraphernalia, which by this time has doubtless been secured. Mt. Sinai Chapter is suffering somewhat from the quiescent condition of Masonic matters in Napanee, and the fact that its membership is largely non-resident; but the Chapter is in the hands of enthusiastic Masons and will doubtless in time occupy the proud position it has in the past. The Report shows a condition which might be improved, but the Chapter cannot be classed as weak. More attention to the collection of dues is seriously required.

St. Mark's Chapter, Trenton, deserves special considera-

tion This Chapter has for some time been reported weak and not prosperous. Early in the year the Companions, after notice to all members, considered the advisability of delivering up their Warrant to Grand Chapter, but decided not to do so; an opinion concurred in by your Representative. For reasons which were accepted a meeting was not held the night the Grand Superintendent visited the Chapter, but a conference with the Excellent "Z." resulted in the receipt of the following report from that officer:

"St. Mark's Chapter, No. 44, Trenton.

This Chapter is not by any means defunct, but during the past summer meetings were not held very regularly and it might be said of it "not dead but sleeping." The Chapter is in a sound financial condition, having assets over all liabilities of $336.74. There are at present thirty two members, of whom, however, only eighteen reside in Trenton or within a radius of three miles of the place of meeting. The Chapter relative to its total membership is strong in the number of good workers. An efficient staff of officers has been elected for the coming year and as several petitions have recently been received for the Intermediate Degrees and Exaltation there is every prospect that the Chapter will rouse itself at once from the dormant state in which, for want of sufficient work, it had fallen. By the "opening of other Chapters the original territory of St. Mark's Chapter has been seriously curtailed and practically only two Craft Lodges are at present within its jurisdiction. Its meetings are held on the first Tuesday after the full moon in each month in the commodious rooms occupied by Trent Lodge; the expense of the rent, heating, electric light, etc, being borne by the Lodge and Chapter *pro rata*. The paraphernalia of the Chapter is very complete and, although the territory of the Chapter is limited and its membership small, there seems no reason why it should not in the future do the work that may fall to it in such workmanlike manner as shall sustain the reputation it earned for itself in past years."

Circumstances have prevented a second official visit, which was considered necessary.

A District Chapter of Instruction was not held, for which your representative must assume all blame, as the Chapters each and all signified a willingness to render every assistance in their power. Illness in your representative's family has largely prohibited him from performing the Masonic work which his inclinations suggested, and a decision arrived at in

the fall to remove to Colorado with his family, prevented that necessary attention being given which was required to make a Chapter of Instruction a success, and to reward the attendant members for the time and expenditure necessarily devoted thereto.

Your representative cannot refrain from introducing a personal phase in his report, by bidding an affectionate and brotherly adieu to the Companions of the District with whom he has for ten years been associated in Masonic work of various kinds. By the time this report is in the hands of the members, the author will have removed to a far distant home, and with new brothers and Companions will resume the work laid out by the Grand Architect of the Universe for His Craftsmen here.

Yours in brotherly love,

S. C. WARNER,

Grand Supt., Prince Edward District.

APPENDIX.

Summary of Information, &c., 30th December, 1896, to 30th December, 1897.

	No. 7.	No. 26.	No. 31.	No. 44.	No. 79.
No. Meetings held :					
Regular	10	6	10	6	12
Emergent	2	1	0	1	1
Total	12	7	10	7	13
Average Attendance :					
Members	20	11	25	13	12
Visitors.....	2	1	3	1	2
Annual Dues per Member..	$2.00	$2.00	$1.20	$1.50	$3 &$2
No. Members as per last Return	110		103	58	42
No. Petitions Accepted....	9	2	4	2	1
No. Candidates Initiated ..	9	0	4	2	0
No. of Affiliations.....	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Restorations	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Withdrawals.....	0	0	0	2	4
No. of Suspensions.....	0	6	9	0	1
No. of Deaths	0	0	1	0	0
Present Membership	119	32	97	58	38
Degrees Conferred ;					
M. M. M.....	10	0	4	2	0
M. E. M.	10	0	6	2	0
R. A.....	9	0	5	2	0
No. Members 12 months in Arrears	36	2	19	30	6
Liabilities of Chapter	$210	$66	0	$40	0
Assets of Chapter.....	$3,500	$403	$100		
Cash or Securities	$70	$49	$100		$40
Property $12,000		$316	0	$300	$100
Dues Outstanding	$142	$37	$100	$271	$60
Amount of Insurance.....	$6,000	$500	0	$300	$100
Prospects of Chapter.....	First-class.	Good.	Excellent.	Good.	Very good.
Can Excellent Z. work all Degrees?	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.

S. C. WARNER.

ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapters of Canada:

On February 20th, I received notice that the Most Ex. Grand Z. had been pleased to appoint me Grand Superintendent of St. Lawrence District, Vice V. Ex. Comp. John Merrish, who had been elected to that exalted station, but had resigned, owing to his business duties conflicting, possibly, with those of Grand Chapter. After due consideration I accepted the important office, and herewith submit my report.

My first official duty was to call the attention of the several Chapters in this District to the Most Excellent Grand Z.'s request for subscriptions to the India Famine Fund, which he had organized, but I am sorry to say, the chapters did not feel in a position to respond.

ANCIENT FRONTENAC AND CATARAQUI CHAPTER NO. 1, Kingston — This old Chapter has celebrated one of the greatest events in her history, viz, the centennial of her Capitular organization, which event occurred June 7th, 1797.

The Centenary celebration took the form of a church service on Sunday, June 6th, an "At Home" on Monday, June 7th, from 4 to 7 p.m., after which a special Convocation was held in the Chapter Room, from 8 to 9 30, when appropriate addresses were delivered, and at 9 30 p.m. the Centenary dinner at the British American Hotel. Business of importance, which necessitated my presence at a meeting in Brockville on the afternoon of the 7th, and which was not finished until after the train had left for Kingston, prevented my attending these events. I have been informed that the celebration was a grand success, and one that the Kingston Companions have every reason to feel proud of.

On December 15th I paid an official visit, and received a royal welcome. The work was first-class, and a credit to Ex. Comp. W. J. Renton, the First Principal and his officers, who have devoted considerable time to render themselves as near perfection as can be attained. The Scribe E. is a painstaking officer, and has the records and books in good shape. The attendance was the largest I had met with in the District. This Chapter has held nine regular Convocations, and seven emergent; conferred M. M. M. Degree on four; M. E. M. on five and exalted five; had an average attendance of 18.4 members and seven visitors; had a membership in Dec., '96,

of 72, initiated four, with one affiliation, lost through withdrawals one, and by death, two, leaving the number on the roll Dec. 31, '97, 74, an increase of two; have in outstanding dues, $40, of which amount eight companions are in arrears of twelve months or more; say that insurance is carried by St. John's Lodge as landlords; prospects of Chapter are good, and the Ex. Z. can work all the degrees.

GRENVILLE CHAPTER, No. 22, Prescott—I visited this Chapter on December 14th, and received a most cordial and fraternal welcome. Ex. Comp. Ryan and his efficient staff of officers exemplified the M. M. degree in such an excellent manner, that very little room was left for criticism. R. Ex. Comp. Graham, Past Grand Supt., and a large number of the older members of the Chapter were present, and added to the success of the meeting. The election of officers took place this evening, and resulted in the three Principals being re-elected, and also most of the old officers, and the future of this Chapter can be looked forward to with confidence, as regards the correct practices of our rites and ceremonies, and the skill and discretion with which its concerns are managed. After the business of the evening was finished, a profitable and enjoyable hour was spent in the dining hall. This Chapter has held twelve regular meetings, with an average attendance of fifteen members and one visitors; conferred the M. M. M. on three, M. E. M. on two, and exalted two; lost through withdrawals, 2, death, 1, suspension, 1, leaving a decrease in membership of one, and making the number on roll 53; number twelve months in arrears, 15, with total outstanding dues, $120. Assets of Chapter, $200, and cost $75, insurance, $200. Prospects of Chapter bright, the Ex. can work all the degrees.

SUSSEX CHAPTER, No. 59, Brockville—This Chapter has been very prosperous during the past year, and ranks equal to any in the District, either as to exemplification of the degrees or the material condition of its concerns, and shows good signs of being more successful during 1898, there being eleven candidates awaiting initiation. This being my mother Chapter, I attended as many meetings as possible, and paid my official visit on December 3, when the election of officers took place. It was expected that some work would be done, but the candidates did not appear; however, having seen the work of the degrees performed before and since, I can vouch for the proficiency of the respective officers. After the Chapter

was closed, a very pleasant hour was passed in the banqueting hall attached to this Chapter. The Ex. Z. has invited me to install the officers at the regular Convocation in January. This Chapter has held eight regular and three emergent Convocations, with an average attendance of fifteen members and four visitors; conferred five M. M. M ; five M. E. M. ; and exalted three; had a loss of one through withdrawal, leaving an increase of four, and making a total membership on Dec. 31, '97, of 65 ; have a cash balance on hand of $176.46, and property in paraphernalia, etc., etc., valued at $300; liabilities, nil; dues outstanding to Dec. 31, '97, $93.15, of which thirty-nine members were twelve months in arrears. The attention of the newly elected Z. was called to a section of the By-Laws, which provided that it was part of his duty to see that the property of the Chapter was properly insured, something that had been overlooked in the past; the Ex. Z. can work all the degrees; the prospects of the Chapter are A 1 ; books are kept well and audited regularly every year.

Maitland Chapter No. 68, North Augusta—I was unable to establish communications with or hear from this Chapter until Dec. 6th. I received a letter from the Z. Ex. Comp. J Chapman, in which he stated, "that they were fitting over the Lodge room, and that it would not be ready for occupation until along in January," so I was unable to visit this Chapter, but will endeavor to do so during the month of January. I have vivid recollections of one visit I paid this Chapter some nine years ago, shortly after its removal to North Augusta, either going or while in the Chapter, or on the way home, I contracted rheumatism, which laid me up for eight months, so I do not want to go there until I know what is before me. This Chapter has held two regular and emergent Convocations, initiated two candidates, who went through to the Royal Arch; have had two deaths, which leaves their number the same as a year ago ; have dues outstanding, $15, of which five Companions are twelve months in arrears. Ex. Z. can work all the degrees; prospects poor as long as it is situated where it is, as there is not much material available, as the nearest Blue Lodge is at Merricksville, which is twelve miles away, and Smiths' Falls, eighteen miles away.

St. Lawrence Chapter No. 100, Brockville—I visited this Chapter at most of the regular Convocations, and officially on December 2, '97. This Chapter has been unfortunate as regards its Principals during the past few years, through

their leaving the locality immediately after being installed or upon the completion of their term of office, so consequently the proficiency of the Chapter has not been maintained. This absence was especially felt during the past year, when the First and Second Principals were absent a great portion of the year. However, at the election of officers, held on the night of my visit, an excellent choice of officers was made, and one, I am quite sure, that will make this Chapter one of the best in the District. R. Ex. Comp. Geo. Gale, Past Grand Supt. of Central District, and who is a good and faithful worker, was elected to the office of Z., and his associates are Companions who have done excellent work during the past in Craft Masonry, and I am confident that this Chapter has the best set of officers now that it has had since its organization.

The books and records have been fairly well kept during the past year. It is the intention of the newly elected Z. to use strenuous efforts to collect in the outstanding dues, and when this is done the Chapter will be in a good position, as the paraphernalia regalia, etc., etc., is in good order, being comparatively new and their rooms comfortable and unexcelled for Royal Arch purpose. This Chapter held eight regular convocations, with an average attendance of nine members present and one visitor; have conferred the M. M. degree on two candidates; had one joining and two deaths, showing a net increase of one, and making the number now on roll 43; have about forty dollars cash on hand and paraphernalia worth from $150 to $200; dues outstanding, $227; no insurance, prospects of Chapter, fair; the Ex. Z. can do all the work. Have received an invitation to install the officers at the next regular Convocation. Books have been audited for the year.

St. John's, No. 112, Morrisburg—I visited this Chapter on Dec. 21st, and did not find the condition of affairs as satisfactory as they should have been, considering that this Chapter has been in existence for several years. The first Principal was absent through sickness, and the Second also, but for what reason, was not stated. Ex. Comp. Past Z. Kennedy, assisted by Ex. Comp. Fell, performed their duties very well in working the Mark degree, but the other officers, being strange to the respective offices, did not show to good advantage. This Chapter has received several candidates during the year, and the removal of Covenant Chapter,

No. 113, from Farran's Point to Cornwall, should certainly benefit this Chapter, as it extends the jurisdiction to the east of Aultsville, and will bring Chesterville also into the circle. I called the attention of the newly elected Z. (in the absence of the Z.) to the necessity of having the returns made to Grand Chapter, and the fees punctually paid, and he promised that the matter would be attended to. I have not received any summary of information from this Chapter, although blank was sent in due season, and I have written requesting its return, but without result.

Covenant Chapter, No. 113, formerly at Farran's Point, now at Cornwall, Ont—I visited this Chapter on Nov. 10th. Some time before in October, I had written the Ex. Z., under instructions from the Most Ex. Grand Z., suggesting that in the interests of this Chapter in particular and the Order in general, that the Chapter be removed to Cornwall, Ont.; owing to the want of a sufficient number of Companions, there was not any meeting, so the consideration of the matter had to be left over until the November meeting. A very small representation of the Companions were present, two being from Cornwall, one from Morrisburg, and five from Farran's Point and Aultsville combined, and which, with myself, made the necessary nine. In the absence of the First Principal, who has removed too, and now lives in Cornwall, I had to take the chair. The Chapter was opened at 9.20 p.m., although called for 7.30 p.m., and was closed at 12 o'clock, after a protracted discussion of the question of removing to Cornwall, which was decided in the affirmative. Later on in the month I received official notice of what had taken place, and directed the First Principal to call a meeting of the Chapter in Cornwall, for December 22, '97, being the earliest date on which I could visit them, for the purpose of electing and installing the officers for the ensuing year, and to obtain a dispensation from the M. Ex. Grand Z. for those purposes.

The dispensation having been duly granted, the election and installation took place on the date mentioned, Ex. Comp. Robertson being re-elected First Principal; Comp. Fraid, Second Principal, and Comp. Elridge, Third Principal. Although this Chapter is started in Cornwall under favorable conditions, it will require careful looking after, before it can be deemed prosperous, as I think, beyond being members, the Companions living in Aultsville, Farran's Point and vicinity, will not be much help to it.

I have to thank R. Ex. Comp. John F. Graham, Past Grand Supt. of this District, and Ex. Comp. Kennedy, of St. John's Chapter, Morrisburg, not only for their assistance during the installation ceremonies, but also for their kindness in coming to Cornwall to assist in conferring the degrees on the expected candidates, who, however, failed to be present, owing to the many demands of business during the holiday trade. This Chapter has held four regular Convocations, and had an average attendance of ten Companions; did not confer any degrees during the year, so their number is the same as last year, viz, 40. Liabilities of Chapter are $36, of which $26 is to Grand Chapter (the necessity of promptly paying being strongly pointed out in order that the Chapter would be in good standing with Grand Chapter); have outstanding dues, $67.75, no insurance; the prospects of this Chapter will depend on the exertions of the new officers, and I consider them fair to good; Ex. Z. can work all the degrees.

CONCLUSION.

During the year peace and harmony has reigned in this District. I was called upon to grant two dispensations to Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui, No. 1, Kingston; one under date of May 31, '97, to attend divine service wearing R. A. regalia, which I granted; the other was for the purpose of attending the centenary dinner clothed in R. A. regalia; not feeling certain where I had authority to grant this one, I referred the matter to the M. Ex. Grand Z, who instructed me to issue the dispensation stating in it, that it was by the authority of the M. Ex. Grand Z., and which I did. I also forwarded the necessary fees received, viz., $2, to the Grand Scribe E., and received his acknowledgement in due course.

In the Chapters that I visited, I called attention to the many ideas advocated by the Committees on the Condition of Masonry (1895-96) for the improvement of the Chapters, and trust that good will result therefrom. My experience has shown that in a great many instances, the printed proceedings are not read in the Chapters, nor by some of the Principals either, consequently a lot of valuable information is lost.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. H. FITZSIMMONS,
Grand Supt. St. Lawrence District.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT, No. 12.

Chapter.	Location.	Meetings.			Membership.				Degrees Corferred.				Initiations.	Suspensions.	Withdrawals.	Deaths.	Average Attendance.		Financial.				No. in Arrears.
		Regular.	Emergent.	Total.	Dec. 31, '96.	Increase.	Loss in '97.	Total, Dec., '97.	M.M.M.	M.E.M.	R.A.	Total.					Members.	Visitors.	Assets.	Cash.	Dues.	Total.	
																			$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	
Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui . .	Kingston..... ...	9	7	16	72	5	3	74	4	5	5	14	4	..	1	2	18.4	7	.....	8 30	40 00	.....	8
Grenville.....	Prescott	12	...	12	54	3	4	53	3	2	2	7	3	1	2	1	15	1	200 00	75 00	120 00	395 00	15
Sussex.....	Brockville...	8	3	11	61	5	1	65	5	5	3	13	5	...	1	...	15	4	300 00	176 46	93 15	569 00	39
Maitland.....	North Augusta ..	2	1	3	28	2	2	28	2	2	2	6	2	...	...	2	12	.....	. ....	100 00	15 00	.....	5
St. Lawrence.....	Brockville.....	8	...	8	42	2	2	42	2	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	9	1½	150 00	40 00	227 00	417 00	..
St. John's.....	Morrisburg.....	....	...	....	....	...	..	No	Re	tur	n.	....	...	...	..	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..
Covenant	Cornwall	4	...	4	40	...	...	40	...	...	...	....	...	...	...	...	10	.....	.....	.....	67 00	.....	..

OTTAWA DISTRICT, No. 13.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

I have the honor to submit my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Ottawa District, which comprises the following Chapters, viz.:—No. 16 Carleton, located at Ottawa; No. 58 Pembroke, Mattawa; No. 61 Granite, Almonte; No. 114 Bonnechere, Renfrew; No. 116 Maple, Carleton Place.

During the year harmony has prevailed throughout the District, not having one question submitted to me requiring a ruling or an investigation.

Carleton Chapter No. 16, Ottawa. Visited this Chapter Nov. 19, when the M.M.M. was conferred upon two candidates. Owing to the fire of a year ago this Chapter has been working under great disadvantages, the lodge room in which they had secured temporary quarters was ill adapted for working in, and also the want of the necessary paraphernalia; notwithstanding this, the work was done in a manner which reflects credit upon the officers, and no doubt when their new lodge is completed, and the Chapters are settled in their new quarters, the work and interest shown by the members will be up to their old time vigor.

This Chapter has initiated five candidates, but one withdrawal, and two deaths, leaves a gain of two—making total membership of 75.

Pembroke Chapter No. 58, Mattawa. This Chapter, which has been in a dormant condition for some time, received my best efforts to find the "small hope hidden away somewhere under the Past Superintendent's vest," and I regret to say that it is lost and I have been unable to find it. In February I wrote, asking for a statement of the condition of Chapter; the report was not very satisfactory: the First Principal had removed from Mattawa and no one was able to do the work, no meeting having been held for nearly a year. By the notice of meeting they had several degrees to work, and I offered my services to confer the same if the other officers would promise to attend and have candidates ready. To this I received no reply. I again wrote in April, offering to go up in May, when election of officers would take place. The Second Principal wrote to come up,

sure; accordingly, on the 18th May, I made my visit, travelling 170 miles—a six hours' journey—to be informed on my arrival that it was doubtful if there would be a meeting. However, eight Companions were found, and with myself making nine, I opened Chapter.

After lengthy discussion, and though the condition of affairs were not of the best, they all agreed to try once more and make the Chapter a success; the election of officers took place, and I left next morning, feeling that I had found the "hope"; but I am sorry to say that I was mistaken. Up to the present time I am unable to get any information regarding the Chapter; the Scribe E. has ignored my letters and no returns of Chapter are to hand.

From observations during my visit and information I have obtained since, it is my opinion that it would be best that the Warrant be surrendered; the material is not there to make a live Chapter. With a membership of 41, only 9 reside in the town. The Chapter is 120 miles from Renfrew, the nearest Chapter, and 94 miles from Pembroke, where the Warrant was transferred from and where quite a number of members reside. What steps Grand Chapter may take remains for it to say; but my opinion is that it is not worth while asking the incoming Superintendent to waste time and money trying to revive the same.

Granite Chapter No. 61, Almonte. Visited this Chapter on 12th April, when I installed officers under dispensation; from the enthusiasm displayed by the officers, I looked for great progress. No candidates having come forward, their enthusiasm has been wasted; but the officers having a few months—before new officers are elected—it is hoped that some work will yet be accomplished.

Bonnechere Chapter No. 114, Renfrew. Visited this Chapter May 14, when I had the pleasure of seeing M. E. M. and R. A M. conferred upon candidates. This Chapter is in a flourishing condition and is well officered, the work as exemplified reflects credit upon them. Two candidates have been accepted and two affiliations received, making a gain of four members and a total membership of 29. The prospects are of the brightest.

Maple Chapter No. 116, Carleton Place. This is my own Chapter, and though I have made no official visit, have been enabled to attend most of the meetings. This Chapter

is in a flourishing condition, though the work is not up to the standard of two years ago; but I am sure that the same spirit still exists in the Chapter and that the next Superintendent will report the work up to the old standard. Six candidates were accepted, making a total membership of 36.

Thus the condition of Capitular Masonry in Ottawa District shows three of the Chapters to be in a flourishing condition, one resting upon its oars, and one dormant, while, numerically, progress has been made. The enthusiasm which should be found among the members is wanting. The old reliables are usually to be found at the meeting, but it appears that many of the members have reached the height of their aspiration when they can call themselves R. A. Masons, and it is to be hoped that something may occur to rouse them from the dormant condition they are in, and Capitular Masonry appreciated as it should be.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

D. H. McIntosh,
Grand Supt., Ottawa District.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE IN OTTAWA DISTRICT No. 13, FROM DEC. 31ST., 1896, TO DEC. 31ST, 1897.

No.	CHAPTER.	PLACE.	Meetings			Average Attendance of Members.	Visitors.	Annual Dues.	No. Members last Return.	Petitions Accepted.	Candidates Initiated.	Affiliations.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Deaths.	Present Membership.	Work Done.			No. Members 12 months in Arrears.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Dues Outanding.	Insurance.	Can Ex. Z. do work.	Prospects.
			Regular.	Emergent.	Total.													M. M. M.	M. E. M.	R. A. M.							
16	Carleton	Ottawa	9	nil	9	13	5	$3.00	73	5	5	nil	nil	1	nil	2	75	5	5	4	Not	gi	ven.			Yes.	Good.
61	Granite ...	Almonte ..	8	nil	8	9	1	1.00	26	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	26	3	4	4	8	nil	$200	24	$150	Yes.	Good.
58	Pembroke ..	Mattawa ..	N	o	R	etur	ns	have	be	en	rec	eiv	ed	up	to	Ja	n.	3r	d,	18	98.						Bad.
114	Bonuechere .	Renfrew ...	9	1	10	12	nil	2.60	25	2	2	2	nil	nil	nil	nil	29	2	2	2	4	nil	363	38	200	Yes.	Good.
116	Maple	Carleton Pl.	10	1	11	14	nil	3 00	30	6	6	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	36	6	6	5	6	nil	230	88	100	Yes.	Good.

D. H. McINTOSH, M.D.,

Grand Supt. Ottawa District

ALGOMA DISTRICT, No. 14.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z, Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

Herewith I desire to present my report upon the state of Capitular Masonry in the District of Algoma.

There are four Chapters in my District, viz., Shuniah, No. 82, Port Arthur; Golden, No. 90, Rat Portage; Tuscan, No. 95, Sudbury; Algonquin, No. 102, Sault Ste. Marie.

I had arranged to make my official visit to Algonquin Chapter, No. 102, Sault Ste. Marie, on December 6th, as per mine of November 18th, to you, but unfortunately, Scribe E. of that Chapter, was away, and did not receive my notice until after date set apart, consequently there was no visit.

Shuniah Chapter, Port Arthur, and Golden Chapter, Rat Portage, have not yet forwarded their returns, so cannot say as to their standing. The former have, however, held several meetings during the year 1897; the latter I am afraid are falling off.

Algonquin Chapter, Sault Ste. Marie, and Tuscan Chapter, Sudbury, are in good condition, and with revival of business in the Districts, "which has been very low for four years," which present outlook promises, will undoubtedly make good and favorable headway in the future. There is plenty of desirable and willing material to place them in a thriving and healthy state, but financial circumstances have prevented same from being utilized for Chapter benefits.

Ex. Comp Arthur, of Tuscan Chapter, is an enthusiastic and hard worker, and should the Most Excellent, the Grand Z, feel disposed to appoint him to a Grand △ office, it will have good results.

Most Ex. Comp. Sharp, is in the woods, north of Wahnapital, and cannot possibly get out before February 1st, hence my communication to you in lieu of his, personally.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

JAS. A. SHARP,
Grand Superintendent.

MANITOBA DISTRICT, No. 15.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

I beg leave to submit my report on Capitular Masonry for District No. 15.

Since the re-arrangement at the last meeting of Grand Chapter this District is much smaller, not only territorially, but in point of the number of Chapters. If such division had not been made, I could have reported the institution of one new Chapter, but, unfortunately, even this small pleasure is denied me.

I did not visit the Chapters in Morden or Boissevain, but from the communications I have had with the officers I am informed that there is no internal growth.

I visited Signet Chapter, officially, in November, it being an emergent communication; the attendance was not large, and most of the officers were absent. There were two degrees conferred by Past Officers, and I must congratulate these Past Officers for the manner in which they performed the ceremonies. While I would have wished to have seen the officers on such visit, it speaks well for the Chapter and Royal Arch Masonry when the Companion out of office takes such a lively interest, that when called upon at a moment's notice, he is able to perform the work creditably. This Chapter has increased its membership to some extent during the year.

At the November meeting of Prince Rupert's Chapter, I visited it officially. There was a good attendance, and nearly all the officers in their places. Two degrees were conferred in an excellent manner, the officers appearing to impress the candidate, and the candidate appearing to appreciate the officers work. This Chapter has grown some during the year, and is now one of the strongest in the jurisdiction.

Notwithstanding there have been additions to the membership of both the City Chapters, yet the increase is not satisfactory.

There are several reasons for this, and one is the extreme conservatism of Royal Arch Masons. This conservatism is to be commended, but there is no denying the fact that when brought into competition with other bodies the result is a loss of candidates. Perhaps another reason is that Royal Arch Masonry has no means or numerical designations to indicate to the outside world that such a Companion has arrived at a

position in the Craft that he is enabled to write after his name certain numerals ; this with the young Master Mason has considerable effect ; and when with that he is told that he is only wasting time in taking such degrees as are conferred in the Chapter, he usually or frequently decides to tack on the numerals and appear before the uninitiated as a very wise and expert Mason. It is a pity that there should be such a condition prevailing, but here it is.

It is hardly to be expected that there will be any great extension of Capitular Masonry in this Province, as the towns and villages are far apart, and the population to draw from very small. Nor, indeed, would it be desirable to see many Chapters instituted, as they would inevitably fail. Even comparatively large places as Portage La Prairie and Brandon seem not to be able to support a Chapter. In the latter place I made strenuous efforts to resuscitate the Chapter that was formerly there, but could not succeed.

There is one redeeming feature to report, and that is, that all the Chapters are in fairly good financial condition.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

Yours fraternally,

JAMES A. CARLEY,
Grand Superintendent

Winnipeg, Dec. 31, 1891.

BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I beg to submit my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the British Columbia District.

Immediately on my election to the office of Grand Superintendent, I made a strong effort to bring the two Scotch Chapters on the Island, one in Victoria and the other in Nanaimo, over to Canada. I did all I possibly could by correspondence, showing the advantages to be gained by such a proceeding ; interviewed several of their leading members ; offered to exemplify our work in their Chapters ; in fact, everything I could think of. In Victoria they gave the matter careful consideration, and finally replied as follows :—

"That the Companions of this Chapter do not think it advisable to make, at present, a change from the Grand Juris-

diction of Scotland, but would be glad to consider any proposition, which would give us a Grand Chapter for British Columbia, when the time was propitious."

In Nanaimo, I do not think the matter was ever considered: I waited in vain for a reply to my second communication. At last, in a confidential chat with one of the members, it transpired that Capitular Masonry was practically dead in Nanaimo; they were seldom able to get a quorum; and the old, old story, a little difficulty about the funds. They are very much in need of an official visit, which, as they are now situated, they are not likely to get. I bargained with this Companion that, if he could get them together, I would go over and show them what a chance they had to re-organize: so far, I have heard nothing, and expect they are still waiting for a quorum.

I assure you I have left no stone unturned to effect this amalgamation. It is a matter of regret to me that I did not have more success, but I do not despair, and think that it may yet be accomplished. Some little progress has been made, inasmuch as they know we are after them.

The dignity of this District has advanced since our last report. We now have two Chapters, far apart, it is true, but look at the magnificent territory to draw from. That a Chapter was needed in the upper country has been amply demonstrated in the work Kootenay Chapter, U. D., has done since its institution.

Armed with a dispensation from M. E. Comp. Walsh, I visited Kaslo on August 26th, and instituted Kootenay Chapter. I was assisted by R. E. Comp. Newman, of Manitoba, and Ex. Comp. W. J. Quinlan, of No. 120 Scotland, Victoria, B.C. There was, of course, the usual banquet, and a good one too, but I was amazed and pleased beyond measure to find what a snug little Chapter they had, and how well they did the work. They have all the paraphernalia complete. Ex. Comp. Chipman, 1st Principal Z., does the work well, and has a good set of officers, who are loyal in their support. I look back with a great deal of pleasure on the visit, and hope the Grand Chapter, in its wisdom, will see fit to grand their Charter. The prospects in Kaslo are particularly bright. Fifty dollars is what they charge for the degrees.

In Vancouver, Chapter No. 98, it has not been all champagne and lawn tennis this year. Before the second month we lost, by removal from the City, the First Principal,

Third Principal, Scribe E., and the Principal Sojourner. This was a knock out blow and had, without doubt, a depressing influence, which was hard to combat. I attended every convocation, generally filling one of the chairs. I made my official visit at the regular convocation in December; found good attendance; Ex. Comp. McNaughton in the chair; no work exemplified; election of officers took place; a good set of officers elected; and I feel confident that under the supervision of Ex. Companion Gatewood, 1st Principal elect, we will soon be full steam ahead again.

The work in this Chapter has not suffered by the absence of so many officers. It has always been well done, but a Chapter without a First Principal, is like a ship without a rudder, apt to drift a little. The attendance has been bad, and the number of applications few for Vancouver; still, they deserve credit for holding it together as well as they did.

Notwithstanding these defects, you may look for a good report of this Chapter next year, as they are about to move into very handsome quarters, and let me say how pleased we would be to entertain some Grand Chapter officer. I think it would do both him and ourselves a great deal of good.

There has been an enquiry from Rossland about the formation of a Chapter there. I have given all the necessary information.

My duties have been made pleasant by assistance and advice cheerfully rendered by my predecessor in office, R. Ex. Comp. Downie, and by Most Ex. Comp. Sargant.

I attach reports of work, etc., done by the Chapters in this District for your consideration.

Fraternally submitted,

HARRY H. WATSON.

ALBERTA DISTRICT.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z., Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada:

I have the honor to submit the annual report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in District No. 17.

I regret exceedingly, that having been away in East Kootenay during the best part of the summer, I have not been able to visit all the Chapters in my District during this term of office.

NORTH STAR R. A. CHAPTER, No. 118—On 27th June last I issued a dispensation to North Star Chapter, to appear in regalia at divine service. The previous summer I had the pleasure of instituting the new Chapter and installing its officers, under instructions and by dispensation from the Grand Z.

This Chapter is in a prosperous condition, having the necessary paraphernalia for the proper working of the Chapter, a good staff of officers and no liabilities. During the year twelve meetings were held, sixty-one regular and one emergent. Attendance good; degrees conferred: M. M. M., four; M. E. M., six; R. A., six. Arrears none. Liabilities none. Assets of Chapter, $175.

WASCONA R. A. CHAPTER, W. D.—Having on the 28th July last, received instructions from the Grand Scribe E., relative to starting a new Chapter at Regina, and being myself unable to attend, Ex. Comp. A. W. R. Markley consented to act in my stead. His report reads as follows:—Rt. Ex. Comp. Dr. N. J. Lindsay, Grand Supt. N. W. T., Dear Sir and Ex Comp.: "According to your request and by dispensation issued to me by the Grand Z. and Grand Scribe E., I did institute Wascona Chapter, W. D, at Regina, N. W. T., on 26th day of August, 1897, according to the constitution of the Grand Chapter. I also presided at four meetings, one regular and three emergent; advanced, received and exalted five brethren to the supreme degree of the Holy Royal Arch. I also instructed them in opening up the minute book. The officers are men who will take a deep interest in their work, and I predict a bright future for Wascona Chapter.

Fraternally yours,

(Sgd.) A. W. R. MARKLEY."

ALBERTA R. A. CHAPTER, No. 108—On Jan. 4th I visited Alberta Chapter, No. 106, and installed the officers for the ensuing year. This Chapter maintains its good name for efficient officers, zealous workers and enthusiastic members. It is strong and prosperous financially, as well as in other respects. Present membership, forty-eight. Petitions accepted during the year, nine; candidates initiated, six. Degrees conferred: M. M. M., six; M. E. M., six; R. A., seven. Amount of insurance carried, $200. No liabilities.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

N. J. LINDSAY,
Grand Supt., Alberta District, No. 17.

Moved by Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. G. F. Shipley and

Resolved:—That the Reports of the Grand Superintendents of Districts be referred to the Executive Committee to report thereon during the present Convocation of Grand Chapter.

CASH STATEMENTS.

M. E. Comp. T. Sargant, Grand Scribe E. submitted his annual cash statement of moneys received during the year, together with the books, etc., and the Grand Treasurer, R. E. Comp. Hugh Murray, submitted his annual statement of receipts and disbursements with vouchers attached.

REPORT OF THE GRAND SCRIBE E.

To the M. E., the Grand Z, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

M. E. Sir and Companions:—I beg to present to Grand Chapter my annual report, containing an accouut of all monies received by me during the twelve months, and paid over to the Grand Treasurer, being the returns of subordinate Chapters to 31st December, 1897.

GRAND SCRIBE E CASH STATEMENT.

Certificates	$309 00		May 29,	G. Treasurer	$7 83
Fees	325 00		July 3,	"	63 75
Dues	762 90		" 31,	"	62 37
Dispensations	62 00		Sept, 14,	"	340 00
Warrants	20 00		Dec. 8,	"	340 00
Constitution	26 60		Jan. 2,	"	60 00
Interest on Deposits	7 83		" 15,	"	600 00
Industrial Bonds, Int.	680 00		" 18,	"	390 00
Toronto General Trusts.	123 75		" 21,	"	467 13
Sundries	14 00				
	$2331 08				$2331 08

ANUNAL STATEMENT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

RECEIPTS FROM CHAPTERS.

No.	1.—An. Frontenac & Cataraqui	$ 23 30	No.	65.—St. Paul's	22 50
"	2.—The Hiram	47 10	"	66.—Malloch	13 40
"	3.—St. John's	41 80	"	67.—Enterprise	25 10
"	4.—St. An. & St. John	32 40	"	70.—Grand River	14 40
"	5.—St. George	45 50	"	75.—St. Clair	12 00
"	6.—St. John's	63 28	"	76 —Mount Nebo	15 50
"	7.—Moira	43 20	"	77.—Occident	16 80
"	8.—King Solomon's	57 40	"	78.—Minnewa	12 60
"	15.—Wawanosh	53 40	"	80.—Ark	46 00
"	18.—Oxford	12 50	"	81.—Aylmer	12 80
"	20.—Mount Horeb	31 80	"	83.—Ionic	16 40
"	22.—Grenville	16 60	"	86.—Macpherson	11 00
"	24.—Tecumseh	44 00	"	88.—MacNabb	19 40
"	26.—St. Mark's	22 20	"	94.—Midland	24 40
"	27.—Manitou	17 20	"	102.—Algonquin	24 50
"	28.—Pentalpha	17 50	"	103.—St. John's	9 40
"	30.—Huron	26 90	"	105.—Signet	25 00
"	31.—Prince Edward	28 00	"	106.—Alberta	23 60
"	32.—Waterloo	10 70	"	110.—Warkworth	22 40
"	34.—Signet	29 40	"	111.—Zeredathah	5 00
"	36.—Corinthian	15 20	"	113,—Covenant	33 60
"	37.—Victoria	21 80	"	116.—Maple	19 20
"	41.—Harris	22 40	"	114.—Bonnecher	10 80
"	45.—Excelsior	17 60	"	115.—Brant	6 20
"	47.—Wellington	10 00	"	118.—NorthStar	21 20
"	48.—St. John's	24 40	"	119.—King Cyrus	41 20
"	50.—Saugeen	16 40	U. D. Wascana		25 00
"	53.—Bruce	64 80	U. D. Kootenay		25 00
"	54.—Palestine	24 70	Interest on Deposits		7 83
"	55.—Niagara	5 80	Industrial Loan Debt		680 00
"	59.—Sussex	26 00	Toronto Trusts Co		123 75
"	63.—Havelock	17 80	Sundries		14 00
"	64.—Willson	13 20			$2331 08

OBITUARY.

We have to record the loss, by death, of the following Companions who were prominent amongst the workers of the Royal Craft :—

M. Ex. Comp. Daniel Spry, P. G. Z., London.

R. E. Comp. L. W. Burke, G. P. S., London.

During the year I received a large number of notifications of the decease of many prominent Companions in sister jurisdictions.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

The following Companions, upon the recommendation of the Most Ex. Grand Z., have been appointed Grand Representatives of Foreign Grand Chapters near the Grand Chapter of Canada.

R. Ex Comp. C. W. Postlethwath, G. Chap. of Iowa.
R. Ex. " B. Allen, " of Maine.
R. Ex. " L. A. Congdon, " of Maryland.
R. Ex. " J. B. Nixon, " of Vermont.
R. Ex. " D. F. Macwatt, " of Quebec.

NEW WARRANTS.

In accordance with instructions of Grand Chapter, the following Warrants have been issued :—

No. 117, Berlin, R. A. Chap., Berlin.
No. 118, North Star Chap., Edmonton, Alta.
No. 119, King Cyrus R. A. Chap., Leamington.

DISPENSATIONS FOR NEW CHAPTERS.

By the instruction of the M. Ex. Grand Z's. I have issued the following Dispensations :—

Kootenay, U. D, Kaslo, B. C.
Wascana, U. D., Regina, Assa.

REPORT OF GRAND TREASURER, 1897.

HUGH MURRAY, GRAND TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH GRAND CHAPTER, ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

1897.				*Dr.*	
Jan'y 25	To Balance, as per Statement, at this date				$ 2325 43
May 29	"	Grand Scribe E.,	Interest on Bank Account		7 83
July 3	"	"	"		63 75
" 31	"	"	"		62 37
Sept. 14	"	"	"		340 00
Dec. 8	"	"	"		340 00
1898.					
Jan'y 15	"	"	"		600 00
" 20	"	"	"		450 00
" 24	"	"	"		467 13
					$ 4656 51

1897.		*Cr.*	
Feb. 1.	By Order	740, Mrs. S. H. Blondheim, Benev't Grant	$ 15 00
"	"	741, Mrs. John Munro, "	5 00
"	"	745, Orphans, S. Waltho, "	15 00
"	"	747, Mother, Donald McLeod, "	10 00
"	"	751, Orphans, M. McPhail, "	20 00
"	"	753, Comp. C. R. Barber, "	15 00
"	"	754, Mrs. Wm. McCadden, "	10 00
"	"	760, Comp. G. J. Bennett, 1 year's For. Cor.	100 00
"	"	761, Comp, G. J. Bennett, ½ " "	50 00
"	"	762, Comp. J. Ross Robertson, Expenses 1896.	50 00
"	"	763, Rolph, Smith & Co., Certificates.....	150 00
"	"	764, Grand Scribe E., for Incidentals 1897.	100 00
"	"	765, Sick Childrens' Home, Benev't Grant	500 00
Feb. 16.	"	766, Comp. John Pritchard, "	5 00
"	"	767, Mrs. S. H. Blondheim, "	15 00
"	"	768, Mrs. John Munro, "	5 00
"	"	769, Orphans, J. G. Burns, "	15 00
"	"	771, Comp. Arch. Couper, "	25 00
"	"	772, Mrs. W. B. Waltho, "	15 00
Feb. 26.	"	773, Mrs. T. D. Harrington, "	20 00
"	"	774, Mrs. W. B. Simpson, "	20 00
"	"	775, Mother, Donald McLeod, "	10 00
"	"	776, Mrs. John Vaux, "	10 00
"	"	777, Comp. John Munro, "	20 00
"	"	778, Mrs. C. E. S. Black, "	10 00
"	"	779, Comp. C. R. Barker, "	15 00
"	"	780, Mrs. Peter Grant, "	20 00
"	"	781, Mrs. C. Merriot, "	7 50
"	"	782, Mrs. John Kennedy, "	10 00
"	"	783, Edmund Hill, "	20 00
"	"	784, Daughter, J. S. Fraser, "	10 00
"	"	785, Daughter, E. H. Kerr, "	10 00
"	"	786, Mrs. N. Lambkin, "	10 00
"	"	787, Mrs. J. C. Baker, "	5 00
"	"	788, Mrs. T. Dockstader, "	10 00
Mar. 20.	"	789, M.E.Comp. J. R. Robertson, Testimonial	250 00
"	"	790, Grand Treasurer, Salary	12 50
"	"	791, Grand Scribe E., "	175 00
Ap'l 19.	"	792, McPherson & Drope, Proceedings....	423 50
June 21.	"	793, Grand Scribe E., Salary.....	175 00
"	"	794, Grand Treasurer, "	12 50
"	"	795, D Henderson, Engrossing Warrants .	16 00
July 19.	"	796, M. E. Comp. Walsh, Expenses	50 50
Sept. 17.	"	797, Children, S. Dockstader, Benev't Grant	10 00
"	"	798, Mrs. J. S. Baker, "	5 00
"	"	799, Mrs. N. Lambkin, "	10 00
"	"	800. Daughter, E. K. Kerr, "	10 00
"	"	801, Comp. Edmund Hill, "	20 00
"	"	802, Daughter, J. S. Fraser, "	10 00
"	"	803, Mrs. C. Merriot, "	7 50
"	"	804, Mrs. John Kennedy, "	10 00
"	"	805, Comp. C. R. Baker, "	15 00
"	"	806, Mrs. Peter Grant, "	20 00

Sept. 17.	"	807, Comp. John Munro, Benev't Grant....	$20 00
"	"	808, Mrs. C. E. S. Black, "	10 00
"	"	809, Mother, Donald McLeod, "	10 00
"	"	810, Mrs. John Vaux, "	10 00
"	"	811, Mrs. T. D. Harrington, "	20 00
"	"	912, Mrs. W. B. Simpson, "	20 00
"	"	813, Arch. Couper, "	25 00
"	"	814, Mrs. W. B. Wallace. "	15 00
"	"	815, Children, J. G. Burns, "	15 00
"	"	816, Mrs. John Munro, "	5 00
"	"	817, Mrs. S. B. Blondheim, "	15 00
"	"	818, Alex. Dixon, Bonds.....	20 00
Dec. 18.	"	819, Grand Scribe E, Salary.....	175 00
"	"	820, Grand Treasurer, "	12 50
1898.			
Jan'y 8.	"	821, Grand Scribe E., "	175 00
"	"	822, Grand Treasurer, "	12 50
"	"	823, Dudley & Burns, Printing Ceremonies	50 00
			$ 3170 00

STATEMENT OF ASSETS OF GRAND CHAPTER, 24TH JANUARY, 1898.

Bond, Toronto General Trusts Co., @ 4 %..... .....$	3000 00
Bonds, Toronto Industrial School, @ 4 %.....	17000 00
Cash in Canadian Bank of Commerce	1486 51
	$21486 51

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

HAMILTON, 24th January, 1898.

We hereby certify that the above-named bonds are in the custody of this Bank for safe keeping, on account of Hugh Murray, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter, and that the balance at the credit of the said Hugh Murray, as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter, on the books of the Bank, at the close of business at this date, is one thousand four hundred and eighty-six dollars fifty-one cents ($1486.51)

WILLIAM ROBERTS, *Manager.*
D. MACGILLIVRAY, *Accountant.*

Bonds	$20000.00
Cash....	1486.51
	$21486 51

Fraternally submitted,

HUGH MURRAY,
Grand Treasurer.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. G. F. Shipley, and

Resolved,—That the Statements of the Grand Scribe E. and Grand Treasurer, for the year 1897, be received and referred to the Executive Committee, for audit and report thereon at the present Convocation.

R. Ex. Comp. G. J. Bennett, Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presented the report of the Committee, which, on motion of R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. G. F. Shipley, was received and ordered to be printed as an Appendix to the Proceedings.

Letters of regret, as to inability to be present, were read from R. E. Comp. D. H. Martyn, Kincardine, and V. E. Comp. D. Spence, Peterboro'.

The Executive Committee presented their report on

AUDIT AND FINANCE.

The Committee on Audit and Finance beg to report, that they have examined the books, vouchers, etc., of the Grand Scribe E., and Grand Treasurer, to 31st December, 1896, and found them correct.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, 31st December, 1896	$2325 43
Certificates	309 00
Fees	325 00
Dues	762 90
Dispensations	62 00
Warrants	20 00
Constitutions	26 60
Interest on Deposits	7 83
Interest on Industrial Bonds	680 00
Toronto General Trusts	123 75
Sundries	14 00
	$4656 51

DISBURSEMENTS.

Sick Childrens' Hospital	$ 500 00
Foreign Correspondence, 1½ years	150 00
Grand Z., J. R. Robertson, Esq	50 00
Testimonial to J. R. Robertson	250 00
Rolph, Smith & Co., Certificates	150 00
Incidentals, G. S. E	100 00
Grand Scribe E., Salary	700 00
Grand Treasurer	50 00
Grand Janitor	5 00
Printing Proceedings, 1½ years	423 50
Bonds, G. S. E., Grand Treasurer	20 00
Dudley & Burns, Ceremonies	50 00
G. Z. Walsh, act. Expenses	50 50
D. Henderson, Engrossing Warrants	16 00
Orders on Benevolence	655 00
	$3170 00

ASSETS.

Toronto Industrial School Bonds, 4 %	$17000 00
Guarantee Mortgage, Toronto Trusts Co., 4 %	3000 00
Balance in Bank	1486 51
	$21486 51

LIABILITIES.

Foreign Correspondence	$ 100 00
Grand Z., Balance of Expenses	54 65
Rolph, Smith & Co., Certificates	185 80
Hunter, Rose & Co., Printing	78 00
Grand Scribe E., Balance Incidentals	7 76
Grand Scribe E., Advance	125 00
Grants to Benevolence	385 00
Total	$ 936 21

Tenders having been asked for the printing of the Proceedings of Grand Chapter for the ensuing five years, we recommend that the tender from Dudley & Burns, of Toronto, be accepted, theirs being the lowest tender.

Your Committee of Audit and Finance have pleasure in congratulating Grand Chapter upon the solid basis of this Grand Chapter of Canada, and at the very satisfactory position, financially, which the report shows.

A SHAW,
Chairman,
Com. Audit and Finance.

Toronto, 26th January, 1898.

Moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved,—That the Report of the Executive Committee on Audit and Finance be received and adopted.

CONDITION OF CAPITULAR MASONRY.

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

After a careful review of the reports submitted by the seventeen Superintendents appointed to inspect, during the twelve months past, the several districts comprised within this jurisdiction, your Commitee is confidently able to state that Capitular Masonry has more than held its own. That the Royal Craft, under adverse circumstances, maintains its strength is a matter for congratulation, that it has made the progress it has, is an indication of a better future.

The conflict against, not enemies, but counter influences, has been silent but steady. Our fraternity relying solely upon its own innate worth is retarded by modern organizations that are enabled to present attractions which appeal to the material

rather than to the sympathetic side of our nature and which, while they endure, must affect the efforts of those who seek recruits for the army of truth.

The Superintendent is the representative of the Grand Z:, and undertakes the duty of visiting, inspecting and reporting upon the condition of the Chapters of his district. It must be said for those officers of the past year that in the majority of cases they accomplished that duty conscientiously and zealously, and rendered the labours of this Committee comparatively easy. Could the same be said of all, a mere presentation of the reports would suffice, for the duty of your Committee is to scan the statements of the Superintendents, note if they have acquitted themselves of their obligations, and sum up the general condition in a report based upon their doings and observations. Thus the duties of both are defined and confined. Occasionally, however, a Superintendent conceives the notion that his office clothes him with privileges beyond the expressed definition, and when inditing his report indulges in flights of humour, criticism or suggestion utterly foreign to the intent of his position. The time, labour and thought he devotes to such effusions, if contributed to the line of duty, might add to the good he may have effected in his district.

With the sole object of once more impressing upon the Companions who may be selected for this very important position, the necessity of confining themselves strictly to the limit of their own duties, your Committee submits herewith the remarkable introduction to the report of a Superintendent who otherwise did his duty admirably, and might with justice be classed among the most assiduous of his year. The extract, which is given in two paragraphs, will serve to show how in endeavouring to display wisdom, it is possible to produce a picture entirely different.

"I confess to have entered upon my duties as Grand Superintendent with some degree of diffidence, after having studied the slashing criticisms of the imperfections and sins of omission and commission of preceding Grand Superintendents indulged in by the Most Excellent the Grand Z., and by the Committee on the Condition of Masonry at the last meeting of Grand Chapter. In one of our charges we are taught to 'judge with candour, admonish with friendship, and reprehend with mercy.' The criticisms referred to went to such an unmerciful length in the matter of candour that the victims might easily have exclaimed: 'Save, save, oh, save me

from the candid friend.' Doubtless it was from a deep sense of the great responsibility resting upon them that so severe a tone was adopted in these reviews, but I trust I may be pardoned for saying that the manifest unkindness in them might well have been spared, and some clearer intimation given of what was desired in the way of information."

Now whatever diffidence affected this good Companion at the outset of his career as Superintendent, it will be admitted there was little of it left when he came to prepare his report. That he entertained a clear and correct idea when he penned the above, of the exact nature and limit of his duties and privileges, is exhibited in what immediately follows, and therein he administers his own reproof.

"If the Superintendent is to depend only upon his official visitations extending as they generally do over the greater part of the year of office, his report when it comes to be written at the close must necessarily be *only* in the nature of a review of the field with some speculations as to what he thinks the prospects for the future may be from the appearances as he finds them."

Nothing more is required, nothing more expected. If the Superintendents acted up to those requirements and expectations, neither the Grand Z, whose deputies they are, nor the Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry would have any occasion for fault finding or criticism. Moreover, the necessity for so doing is unpleasant in each instance, and is compelled only by the neglect on the part of some to "review" the entire "field."

Your Committee, with due regard for the proprieties, have considered it expedient, for obvious reasons, to transfer that portion of the Superintendent's introduction, to this document. The gem is thus preserved to the Craft, and will not mar an otherwise excellent report.

The lax condition of the Chapters in certain districts, while a matter for regret is attributed by the Superintendents to various causes, a limited field, carelessness in the collection of dues, the activity of other societies, lack of enthusiasm on the part of officers, the minimum fee, and in one instance, to a competition within the fraternity which has been referred to on a former occasion.

It is true that Chapters have been applied for and granted to localities where the symbolic lodge or lodges, gave promise of growth and activity. When the latter experienced a season

of depression, the Chapter is, of course, affected. To keep the flame alive, the inspecting officer must be depended upon. Much can be done by visitation, and if that is impracticable, then by continued correspondence.

The report of this Committee last year included the remarks of a Superintendent on a Chapter which he believed was dead. During the year the Grand Z. visited the place, the Companions were gathered together, applications were received, and now it is reported as "doing well."

As remarked hitherto, the question of arrearages of dues is and has been a difficult problem, and has elicited comment from a number of the Superintendents, who have examined carefully the condition of their Chapters. They have frequently pointed out the importance of the matter, and enjoined immediate attention to applying the remedy. Chapters which select for the position of Scribe E., Companions who have no idea of business methods, are primarily responsible for the state of things reported. A good custodian of the books will do much towards keeping the Companions active and his Chapter healthy. One of the Superintendents, in referring to the existence of other societies, suggests a reunion of Craft and Capitular Masonry, in fact this Companion is prolific of suggestion. He "suggests" that this Committee "suggest a cause and to provide a remedy for the inanition which seems almost to presage death." The Committee's suggestion for this alarming condition of affairs would be for the Superintendents to rigidly adhere to the lines of their own duty.

His personal experience of the "inanition" in his district is thus described. "At every meeting attended during my tour of inspection, I was most hospitably entertained by the Companions," and to show that the dread symptoms of capitular death had deeply impressed him he concludes: "I beg to surrender my 'seals of office,' having only the happiest memories of my official connection with the Chapters."

In one district which is reported as not holding its own, the cause is ascribed to lack of interest. Even a Chapter of instruction failed to attract the officers of three out of six Chapters. In other districts Chapters are singled out as possessing inattentive and careless officers. Under such circumstances it would be hard to expect enthusiasm in the Companions.

A very important feature brought to the front for the first time since an enactment of Grand Chapter two or three years

ago, is the effect upon the growth of Chapters in populous localities by the reduction of the minimum fee. In one case the Scribe E. reports to the Superintendent that the lowering of the fee had injured the Chapter materially. It is also learned that several Chapters would, but for the competition, return willingly to the old figure, while in Windsor, Toronto, etc., some have voluntarily done so. If, as has been stated, the amendment to the constitution was effected with the purpose of assisting Chapters located in rural districts, it perhaps might have been better if the cities and larger towns, where the Companions are usually under some considerable expense to provide comfortable quarters, had been exempt. It is, however, noticed that the districts which do not include populous centres are not complaining, and your Committee must infer that they, at least, are satisfied.

The allurements of other Masonic rites are pointedly referred to by the Superintendent of the Manitoba district, who deplores, and perhaps justly, the conservatism of the Companions of the Royal Arch, who permit young and susceptible brethren to be attracted by features which would not be so effective if the direct connection, necessity for, and beauty of the Royal Arch degree were more freely discussed. Your Committee knows of no reason why the intelligent and worthy Master Mason should not be invited to share in the knowledge which will make his Masonic edifice complete. The opportunity missed by the Companions is seized upon by the enthusiastic brethren of other rites, to their palpable advantage and to the weakening of the Royal Craft.

Chapters of Instruction, those excellent aids to efficiency and progress, were held in four out of the seventeen districts, viz., St. Clair, London, Toronto and Ontario, and the visitations both of the M. E., the Grand Z., and his representatives were numerous and beneficial.

A concise report is furnished by the inspecting officer of the St. Clair district, who speaks well of all his Chapters, except those at Chatham and Amherstburg, both of which will be heard from next year.

The London Superintendent's report is ample. He visited all his Chapters, and speaks well and hopefully of the district which records an increase in membership.

The five Chapters of the Wilson district were all visited, and the Superintendent submits a capital report. He points out that the number of Brant Chapter, at Paris, according to the warrant is 116, while in the Grand Chapter books it is

115. He looks for an improvement in Brant in the future. All the others are advancing. The registration of Marks, he says, is not observed.

An entertaining and instructive report is furnished by the Superintendent of the Wellington district, who was zealously attentive to all six Chapters under his charge. That at Galt exhibited no work, and Ionic at Orangeville is stationary. Seymour Chapter at Shelburne was burned out a year ago, but has failed to re organize, notwithstanding frequent efforts of the Superintendent. He attributes the apathy to the fact that no insurance had been placed on their effects, so that the loss was serious, and holds the incident up as a warning to others. His district otherwise is doing well.

St. Clair Chapter, Milton, is the weak spot in the Hamilton district. The Superintendent, who reports well of all the others, thinks it requires new blood. There are no statistics with this report.

Enthusiasm and good work characterized the Huron district during the year. The Superintendent visited seven out of the eight Chapters, that at Exeter failing to convene for him. He thinks the opinion of the S. E., that the warrant might with profit be returned to the place whence it came, is a sensible one. In spite of this defect, the district shows a substantial increase.

The report from the Niagara district is meagre of information. Two of the six Chapters were not visited, viz , those at Dunnville and Grimsby. The Superintentent was unable to connect, owing to lack of co-operation on the part of those Chapters. He says that a Chapter of instruction is still under consideration. He looks for a decided advance in the coming year. Returns received show a loss of ten.

The weak Chapters in the Toronto district are those at Newmarket and Eglinton, both of which promise better for the coming year. The Superintendent was a frequent visitor, and inspected all eight Chapters in his district. He is of opinion that the reduced fee is not conducive to welfare in the city Chapters, and also points out the non-attention to collection of dues.

Georgian district is reported favorably. The Chapter at Meaford is again in line, and that at Owen Sound, although not visited, is said to be working regularly with fair prospects. The Superintendent reports well of all the others.

Lack of advance in some quarters of the Ontario district it attributed by the Superintendent to too many Masonic

bodies in small places, and also to misplaced aspiration for office. Warkworth Chapter has been in a condition of coma, but a recent spasm of vitality inspires the Superintendent with hope for its recovery. Whitby, once so active, has fallen behind temporarily. The others are progressing, and two show a decided increase. All the Chapters but that at Warkworth were visited.

The statement accompanying the report from the Prince Edward district indicates a slight decrease. All the Chapters were visited, and the Superintendent regards them as in much the same condition as the previous year. A clear and comprehensive report is furnished by R. E. Comp. Warner, who was compelled ere his term expired to remove to Denver, Colorado, owing to illness in his family. As an active and earnest worker, both in Craft and Capitular Masonry, Comp. Warner's absence will be felt in the district which he so well served.

The Superintendent selected for the St. Lawrence district having declined the office, Comp. C. H. Fitzsimmons was appointed in his place, and the account of his stewardship proves him to have been worthy of the choice. He reports well of all the Chapters but that at Morrisburg, which was not as satisfactory as he expected, and he is of the opinion that Covenant Chapter, removed from Farron's Point to Cornwall, will require looking after.

Persistent and praiseworthy effort on the part of the Superintendent of the Ottawa district failed to infuse life into the Chapter at Mattawa, and he believes the warrant ought to be surrendered. Of the other four all are progressing, but that at Almonte, which is at a standstill. The report gives a clear understanding of the condition of the district.

The information from Algoma district is of the slenderest kind. The Superintendent in a brief communication states that he visited Sudbury Chapter, hears that Shuniah at Port Arthur is prospering, that Golden at Rat Portage is dormant, and that he could gain no information from Sault Ste. Marie.

The Manitoba Superintendent is not hopeful with regard to the future progress of the Royal Craft, and assigns as a chief cause the great distances between populous centres. The Chapters at Boissevain and Morden do not exhibit advance, but those at Winnipeg are growing and doing effective work. The increase, however, is not satisfactory, the cause for which he ascribes to the enticements held out in other branches.

British Columbia and Alberta districts are the only ones which report Chapter additions. The new Chapter U. D. at Kaslo has started under favorable auspices. It is named Kootenay, is comfortably quartered, has a membership of twenty-four, charges $50 for the degrees, and enjoys a bright outlook. The Superintendent states that Rossland may, in a short time, apply for a dispensation. The Chapter at Vancouver is doing well. An excellent report is furnished.

The Superintendent of the new Alberta district reports Wascana Chapter, U. D., at Regina, as having been instituted August 26th, by E. Comp. Markley, who writes very hopefully of the venture, and believes it is in excellent hands. Calgary and Edmonton Chapters are both reported favorably.

From the summary thus given it will be gathered that there is little in the condition of the Capitular Craft to occasion uneasiness. While the inactivity of a few Chapters is a matter for regret, it must be remembered that many now flourishing have passed through similar seasons of adversity, and, came through, the brighter for their tribulation. The active Chapters, while not reporting numerous accessions, are doing fairly well, and the showing of others would be more pleasing, if withdrawals and suspensions did not affect the quality of the sum total. The indications for a busy year have exhibited themselves in many sections, and with the apparent commercial revival will probably extend to all.

Your Committee congratulates the M. E., the Grand Z., on his devotion to duty during the twelve months. His visits have been numerous, and their good effects have been manifested in a desire to improve and excel. That the Grand Superintendents were imbued with a similar zeal is established in the fact that seventy-nine out of the ninety-three Chapters on the roll were officially visited. The great distances at which some of the Chapters lie from the residence of the inspecting officers is, of course, a bar to their benefiting by the attention they would otherwise receive.

Your Committee desires to commend the zeal exhibited by the Superintendent of the British Columbia district in his efforts to induce the Scottish Chapters at Victoria and Nanaimo to come in under the Canadian fold. The latter Chapter, he states, is about dormant, and the other adheres to its allegiance until the time arrives for the birth of a Grand Chapter on the Pacific Coast .

The celebration of its centennial anniversary by Ancient Frontenac and Cararaqui Chapter occurred on Monday, 7th

June last, an event upon which your Committee would congratulate the Companions of Kingston. It took the form of a church service on the previous Sunday, attended by the Craft of the city and vicinity, and on Monday a special convocation, an At Home, and a banquet. The occasion was as successful as it was eventful, and one which the Companions of the Limestone City may well be proud of.

Such celebrations should inspire us with a lofty respect and admiration for the ancient Craft to which we are privileged to belong. That its influence is far reaching is displayed in the fact that nothing calculated to disturb the serenity of its existence has been reported in this jurisdiction. A fraternity that has lived and prospered generations before any other organization was ever heard of, cannot now be affected by a passing lethargy. Freemasonry is not sustained by its mysteries, its ceremonies or its paraphernalia. Its true interest is above and beyond all this. Its motto is "Holiness to the Lord" Its treasures, its glorious lights and mystic ties, can only be enjoyed by those "who seek the institution unbiased by friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, and from a sincere wish of being serviceable to their fellow creatures, and if all men lived in exact accordance with its teachings, this world would be indeed a paradise.

While death has been merciful with the jurisdiction, it has not overlooked us. In August last one of our number was summoned within the veils, and a familiar figure passed away, a familiar voice was hushed forever. For many years M. Ex. Companion Daniel Spry was one of the most active in the councils of Grand Chapter, as he was in those of other branches of Masonry, possessing every quality that combined to make a good citizen, a steadfast friend, an upright man, and a consistent Mason, his loss will be keenly felt.

Among the victims of the terrible calamity which in the early part of this month shadowed the City of London was R.E. Comp. L. W. Burke, a Past Grand S. N., and a member of the Executive Committee of Grand Chapter. The deceased Companion by his zeal for the Craft had earned the love and esteem of the many who recognised his sterling worth, and now mourn his untimely end

Among others who have been summoned, and whose deaths leave a gap in the circles of the Craft where they were best known, are V. Ex. Comp. Harry Sweetman, of Hamilton, and Ex. Comp. Francis Dalby, of Elora.

Each one of us is a worker in the erection of a temple;

each one of us in turn has laid the cornerstone of the Masonic edifice of his life, and it rests with each to make it fair and beautiful. The evergreen that marks the final resting place of our departed Companions tells its own story. You and I shall live, live long after these poor bodies shall have been laid in the grave; long after the fabrics of earth, aye, the earth itself, shall have crumbled away; long after the glorious star fires on heaven's high archway shall have expired. The few years given us here are but a halt at the portals of eternity. May each of us so labor that his work shall receive the approval of the All Wise Overseer, and when our bright noon day shall have waned and the evening shall come, bringing with it the hour of rest, may each of us receive from Him the commendation "Well done."

Fraternally submitted,

GEO. J. BENNETT,
Chairman.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. G. J. Bennett, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Executive Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry be received and adopted.

WARRANTS.

To the Most Excellent Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

Your Committee on Warrants beg to report as follows:

Application has been received from Kootency R. A. Chap., U. D., Kaslo, B.C.

They have held regular meetings since organization. Dispensation issued 16 April, '97. Minute book in good order. We recommend that a Warrant be granted.

Application received from Wascana R. A Chap, U. D., Regina.

Meetings have been regular since organization. Minute book in good order. Dispensation issued 16 April, '67. We recommend that a Warrant be granted.

A letter has been received from the Secretary of MacNab Lodge, 169, Port Colborne, setting forth the facts that a number of the Companions of Hiram Chapter and members of MacNab Lodge desire Grand Chapter to return the Warrant of said Chapter, which was surrendered some years

ago, stating that they are now in a position to re organize and work the Chapter.

Your Committee recommend that upon the receipt of the proper petition signed by the requisite number of Companions, and if in his judgment it is desirable, the Most Ex. Grand Z. be authorized to grant their request.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. F. SHEPLEY,
Chairman Com. on Warrants.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. G. F. Shepley, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Executive Committee on Warrants be received and adopted.

CHARTER MEMBERS.

KOOTENAY NO. 121, KASLO, B. C. — Elon Ezra Chipman, Z.; Duncan Cruikshank McGregor, H.; John Franklin McIntosh, J.; John N. Rankin, John Henry, Jr., Daniel M. Bongard, Charles Trumbull, F.M. Kagy, J. Roderick Robertson, Louis R Lindsay, Charles M. Wilson, Edgar Brooker, W. W. Corner.

WASCANA NO. 122, REGINA, ASSA. — John Marshall Young, Z.; Dixie Watson, James Henry Benson, William Henderson, Thomas C. Johnstone, John A. Kerr, Arthur Downey, P. M. Barker, Phillip Thomas, Martin Kennedy.

BENEVOLENCE.

To the M. E. the Grand First Principal and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada.

The Executive Committee of Grand Chapter on Grants for Benevolent Purposes beg leave to report.

Your Committee have examined the applications sent in by the subordinate Chapters, and would recommend that the following grants be made :

Name of Grantee.	Am't.	No.	Through Whom Payable.
Widow of S. Blondheim	$30	1	1st Prin. An. Front. Chapter, No. 1.
Widow of John Monroe	10	2	" " " "
Children of J. G. Burns	20	3	" King Sol. " No. 8.
Widow of T. D. Harrington	40	4	" " " "
Comp. A. Couper	40	5	" McCallum, Dunnville, No. 29.
Widow of C. E. S. Black	10	6	" " " "
" W. B. Wallace	10	7	" Victoria, Port Hope, No. 27.
" J. S Baker	10	8	" " " "
" Peter Grant	20	9	" Palestine, St. Thomas, No. 54.
" C. Merriott	15	10	" " " "
" Ernest Hill	20	11	" St. John's, Hamilton, No. 6
" Jonn Kennedy	20	12	" " " "
Mother of Donald McLeod	20	13	" Huron, Goderich, No. 30.
Comp. G. R. Barker	30	14	" Havelock Chapter, No. 63.
Mrs. C. A. Burden and children	20	15	" Hiram Chapter, No. 2.
Widow of Wm. McCadden	10	16	" St. John's, London, No. 3.
Widow of John Vaux	20	17	" Tecum-eh, Stratford, No. 24.
Frank P. Gassion	30	18	" Occident Chapter, No. 77.
Widow of H. Lamblin	10	19	" Carleton Chapter, No. 16.
Daughter of W. Kerr	10	20	" " " "

Your Committee, in the consideration of these grants, deem it advisable to call the attention of Grand Chapter to the fact that, while in some cases the subordinate Chapters liberally assist beneficiaries, the larger proportion of cases shows a minimum of assistance to those on whose behalf assistance is asked. Indeed, in some cases the beneficiaries of Chapters receive very much larger grants every year than the aggregate sum paid in by the applying Chapter for fees and dues to the Grand Chapter.

Your Committee would fraternally ask the Companions to bear in mind that the amount at the disposal of Grand Chapter for the purposes of charity, relatively, is many times smaller than the sum devoted by the Grand Craft Lodge to the same purpose, and that, therefore, a greater amount of care is required in the distribution of the funds, so that the amount at the disposal of the Committee may be distributed with the view of doing the greatest good to the greatest number of applicants.

Your Committee are of opinion that whatever scrutiny may be given by Chapters to the cases of those making application, should be amplified by the report of the inspecting officer of Grand Lodge, and that a request be made for a copy of the special report in the cases where applicants have claims upon the charity of the Royal Arch Body. Such action would be valuable and would afford special data to the Committee who have in hand the consideration of these grants.

Your Committee are of the opinion that, in the case of children who have grown into manhood and womanhood since the grants were first made, they having become bread-winners and wage-earners, grants should be discontinued. The suggestion is also made that, except in the case of an absolute invalid, no further aid should be given from our funds after such applicants have reached the age of eighteen years in either sex.

The subject of the distribution of funds in connection with charity by this Grand Chapter has been discussed by your Committee, and the opinion prevails that in all future grants for benevolence, the sum allotted to each applicant should be in a fixed proportion to the amount granted by the subordinate Chapters. It seems unreasonable that in one case where a Chapter pays in $9 as fees and dues to the funds of this Grand Chapter, $50 should be made to one of its beneficiaries. Indeed, it appears in one or two cases as if the amount granted the applicant in the subordinate Chapter were just large enough to enable the Chapter to declare that aid had been granted.

Your Committee would recommend that the subject of the distribution of the charity of Grand Chapter be referred to this sub-committee to deal with, and, if possible, devise some system or suggest some scheme which would work out better than that under which the present grants are distributed.

Fraternally submitted,

J. Ross Robertson,
Chairman.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by M. Ex. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Committee on Benevolence be received and adopted.

GRAND Z.'s ADDRESS.

To the M. E. the Grand Z., Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

The Executive Committee beg to present the following report on the Address of the M. E. the Grand Z.

The Committee heartily join with the M. E. the Grand Z., in his unqualified praise of the suitability and commodiousness of the rooms secured by the Toronto brethren in the Temple Building for Masonic purposes, and unite with him in applauding the munificent liberality of M. E. Companion J. Ross Robertson, who, in addition to the time devoted by him as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, in the preparation of the rooms, has contributed a considerable part of the furnishings, and who, also, after a liberal expenditure of time and money, has added to the portraits that adorn the walls of the Blue room, those of eight of the Provincial Grand Masters who had charge of the Craft in this jurisdiction during the end of the last and the first half of the present century.

The Committee notice with pleasure that, though unable to make many visits of a general character, yet the M. E. the Grand Z. did devote considerable time and attention to the weak Chapters in the western part of Ontario, and with, on the whole, very gratifying results, as no less than six of them have taken up the work with energy and determination and are now fairly on the road to prosperity, whilst one or two more show signs of awakening from their dormant state. A visit from the M. E. the Grand Z. to some of the Chapters in eastern Ontario, during the coming year, would no doubt produce equally satisfactory results.

The Committee notice with pleasure that the M. E. the Grand Z. favored Chapters of Instruction at London, Toronto and Port Hope with his presence (though he was unable to be present at the one in the St. Clair District), that the attendance at all of these was good, that the work —with a few minor exceptions—was correctly and impressively rendered, that the Grand Z. himself at times took part in the work, and that he had every reason to believe that the result would be manifested by an increased interest in Capitular Masonry in the localities where these Chapters of Instruction were held.

The Committee regret that the efforts of the M. E. the Grand Z. to induce the Chapters of Victoria and Nanaimo to affiliate with this Grand Chapter were unsuccessful, and agree with him that the expenses attending upon a personal visit should not be incurred at the present time. It is to be hoped, however, that the Grand Z. will not abandon his attempts to bring about the desired object.

The Committee unite with the M. E. Grand Z in congratulating the Kingston Companions upon the success that attended the celebration there of the Centennial of Royal Arch Masonry in our jurisdiction, and agree with him that no more appropriate place could have been selected.

The Committee gladly concur in the recommendation of the M. E. the Grand Z. in the appointment of R. E. Companion C. W. Postlethwaite as Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Iowa, in place of R. E. Companion G. J. Bennett, who declined re-nomination.

The Committee approve of the action of the M. E. the Grand Z. in asking for contributions from subordinate Chapters towards the Indian Famine Fund, and agree with him that, in all probability, some portion of our contributions assisted in relieving the wants of brethren in distress in that far-off land.

The Committee have read with much interest the Book of Ceremonies prepared by a committee under the supervision of the Grand Z. The book has evidently been prepared with great care, is well printed and bound, and without doubt "fills a long felt want."

The Committee approve of the M. E. the Grand Z.'s remarks regarding benevolence, and trust that some action will be taken, making it compulsory on Chapters to make reasonable grants themselves, before invoking the assistance of Grand Chapter.

The Committee are of opinion that the rulings in the three cases mentioned in the address are sound and are in strict accordance with general Masonic law.

The Committee trust that the District Superintendents now to be elected, will study carefully that portion of the address relating to the condition of Royal Arch Masonry, and that, during the coming year, they will aid in every way the efforts which the Grand Z. promises he will make to improve it. With this effective aid, his labors will be materially lightened and favorable results more certainly achieved.

The Committee have given consideration to the possible union of all the Grand Chapters in the Dominion, and are of opinion that there can be no harm in obtaining in a general, if not in a special way, the views of prominent members of the various Grand Chapters upon this most important matter—a matter, in fact, so important, and involving so many conflicting considerations as to prevent the Committee, in the limited time at its disposal, from expressing any defi-

nite or detailed opinion upon it now. Just before and immediately after Confederation, the matter was brought to the attention of the Grand Chapter by the then Grand Z., but without any definite result, and from time to time thereafter Grand Chapters were formed in the several Provinces, and the Committee are under the impression that, since the time alluded to, the question of a Grand Chapter for British North America has never been brought before Grand Chapter.

The Committee join with the M. E. the Grand Z. in extending to R. E. Companion Warner, of Napanee, our extreme regrets that Mrs. Warner's ill-health necessitates their removal to Denver, Colorado, and in expressing the hope that the change of climate may fully restore Mrs. Warner to good health, and that we may have back again amongst us a Companion who has evinced so much zeal for the interests of the Royal Craft, and whose Masonic duties have always been accompanied by a geniality and courtesy which has endeared him to all those with whom he has come in contact.

The Committee fully endorse the patriotic sentiments with which the M. E. Grand Z. closes his address. The marvellous and magnificent demonstrations in the Mother Land, in connection with the celebration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria will, in all probability, never be surpassed. The roads that led of old to Rome pale into insignificance when compared with the roads that led last June to London. It is almost impossible to realize the power and might that surrounds the British Throne, or the full extent of the homage that was paid to Britain's Queen—a power and homage that we, as loyal Canadians, will ever be ready to defend and bestow.

The Committee, in conclusion, are glad to learn from sources altogether outside of the Grand Z.'s address, that, during his term of office, a number of difficulties have been removed by his prudent care and counsel, that quite a few weak Chapters have been strengthened and encouraged by his valued presence and good advice; that he has formed and maintained new friendships, at the same time losing none of the old, and that in every sense and in every way he has discharged the duties of his high office with entire satisfaction to the Royal Arch Masons within his jurisdiction.

Fraternally submitted,

J. J. MASON,
Chairman,
Sub-Committee on Address of Grand Z.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by M. Ex. Comp. J. J. Mason, and

Resolved,—That the report of the Executive Committee on the Address of the M. E. Grand Z. be received and adopted.

RECEPTION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

The following Representatives were introduced to Grand Chapter and received with Grand Honors :

R. Ex. Comp. C. W. Postlethwaite ..... Iowa.
R. Ex. Comp, B. Allen ..... Maine.
R. Ex. Comp, L. A. Congdon ..... Maryland.
R. Ex. Comp. J. B. Nixon ..... Vermont.
R. Ex. Comp. D. F. Macwatt ..... Quebec.
R. Ex. Comp. J. Baker ..... Oregon.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The following communication received by the Grand Scribe E. of this Grand Chapter has been referred to your Committee :

OFFICE OF GRAND SCRIBE E., FREEMASONS' HALL,
25 COLLINS ST., MELBOURNE, July 15th, 1897.

THOMAS SARGANT, ESQ.,
Grand Scribe E., Grand Chapter of Canada.

DEAR SIR AND M. E. COMPANION :

I am directed by the Committee of General Purposes of this Grand Chapter to inform you that, although your Grand Chapter has accorded recognition to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Victoria, an interchange of Grand Representatives has not yet taken place ; and in order to remedy this, if your First Grand Principal will nominate a Companion as our Representative near your Grand Chapter, I will also submit the name of a Companion as your Representative near this Grand Chapter.

Anticipating a favorable reply,

I am, Dear Sir and M. E. Companion,

Yours fraternally,

JOHN BRAIM, P.G.J.,
Grand Scribe E.

In view of the fact that there is nothing to interfere with the cordial relations that should exist between the

Companions of this jurisdiction and those under the Southern Cross, your Committee would cordially recommend that the request be acceded to: that this Grand Chapter accord fraternal recognition to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Victoria, and that a Companion be nominated to represent that Body near the Grand Chapter of Canada.

Fraternally submitted,

GEORGE BENNETT,
Chairman.

It was moved by M. Ex. Comp. J. E. Harding, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. G. J. Bennett, and

Resolved, That the Supplementary Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be received and adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. The M. E. Grand Z. appointed R. Ex. Comps. Auberey, White, and P. H. Cox, as scrutineers.

The result of the election was as follows :—

M. Ex. Comp. M. Walsh, Ingersoll, Grand Z.,	Re-elected.
R. Ex. Comp. W. G. Reid, Hamilton, Grand H.,	"
R. Ex. Comp. G. F. Shipley, Toronto, Grand J ,	"
M. Ex. Comp. Thomas Sargant, Toronto, G. S. E.,	"
R. Ex. Comp. Hugh Murray, Hamilton, G. Treasurer,	"

The Grand Chapter was then called off for the space of twenty minutes for the election of Grand Superintendents of Districts.

The Grand Chapter resumed labor.

The following Companions having been nominated by the representatives from the respective Districts. They were approved of, and the elections confirmed by the M. Ex. Grand Z.

R. Ex. Comp.	John Sale, Windsor,	St. Clair	Dist.	No. 1.
R. E. "	Partlo, Ingersoll,	Windsor	"	No. 3.
R. E. "	J. W. Butler, London,	London	"	No. 2.
R. E. "	A. Oelschlager, Berlin,	Wellington	"	No. 4.
R. E. "	W. A. Ferrah, Oakville,	Hamilton	"	No. 5.
R. E. "	R. D. Hall, Kincardine,	Huron	"	No. 6.
R. E. "	R.G.W. Connolly, Dunnville,	Niagara	"	No. 7.
R. E. "	N. T. Lyon, Toronto,	Toronto	"	No. 8.
R E. "	R. Fraser, Barrie,	Georgian	"	No. 9.
R. E. "	A. E. Henry, Oshawa,	Ontario	"	No. 10.
R. E. "	C. G. Wensley, Campbellford,	P. Edward	"	No. 11.
R. E. "	Wm. Thomson, Kingston,	St. Lawrence	"	No. 12.

R. E. Comp. David Barr, Renfrew, Ottawa " No. 13.
R. E. " R. E. Mitchell, Port Arthur, Algoma " No. 14.
R. E. " J. Jackson, Winnipeg, Manitoba " No. 15.
R. E. " P. McNaughton, Vancouver, B. Columbia " No. 16.
R. E. " A. W. R. Markley, Calgary, Alberta " No. 17.

The election of officers was then resumed with the following results :—

R. E. Comp. W. J. Robertson, Port Hope, G. S. N.
R. E. " S. Dubber, St. Thomas, G. P. S.
R. E. " R. W. Hull, Toronto, G. Registrar.
Comp. Alex. Hebbin, G. Janitor.

The following named Companions were elected members of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year :—

R. E. Comp. Wm. Roaf, Toronto, Re-elected.
R. E. " D. H. Martyn, Kincardine, "
R. E. " D. F. Macwatt, Barrie, "
R. E. " A. Shaw, Kington, "
R. E. " A R. Hargraft, Cobourg, "

The following Companions compose the Committee on Benevolence, and are members of the Executive Committe for the following terms :—

M. E. Comp. R. B. Hungerford, London, retires in 1899.
M. E. " J. E. Harding, Stratford, " 1900.
R. E. " John S. Dewar, London, " 1901.

TELEGRAM FROM GRAND CHAPTER OF QUEBEC.

The following telegram was received from the M. E. Grand Z. of the Chapter of Quebec :—

"The Grand Chapter of Quebec, in session assembled, send hearty fraternal greetings to its Mother Grand Chapter of Canada.

"JOHN TRESEDDER, G. Z."

To which the following reply was sent J. Tresedder, G. Z., Grand Chapter of Quebec :—

"I heartily reciprocate your kind wishes, and will with pleasure communicate your telegram to Grand Chapter tomorrow.

"M. WALSH, G. Z."

PETITIONS.

A petition from Mount Moriah R. A. Chapter. No. 19, St. Catharines, asking that the rank of Past H. and Past Z. be conferred upon E. Comp. Albert Chatfield, a member of said Chapter eighteen years, which was referred to the Executive Committee for report.

The following Report was subsequently presented :

Your Committee, to whom was referred the application of Mount Moriah Chapter, No. 19, St. Catharines, asking that the rank of Past H. and Past Z. be conferred upon Ex. Comp. Chatfield, beg to recommend that the matter be referred to the Grand Council for due enquiry into the circumstances of the case, and if in their opinion the said rank should be conferred upon the said Companion, that the M. E. Grand Z. instruct the Grand Scribe E. to issue a Dispensation for the purpose of having the rank conferred.

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

The following places were named as the next place of meeting :—Stratford, London, Kingston. Upon the vote being taken it was decided to hold the next Convocation in Stratford.

VOTE TO SICK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. D. F. Macwatt, seconded by M. Ex. Comp. J. J. Mason, and

Resolved—That the sum of one thousand dollars be appropriated by this Grand Chapter to complete the endowment of the Grand Chapter Cot in the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto ; $500 to be payable on the 1st of August, 1898, and the balance of $500 on the 1st of August, 1899.

PAST RANK CONFERRED.

It was moved and seconded by M. Ex. Comp. Thos. Sargant, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. G. J. Bennett,

Whereas the Grand Superintendents of Niagara and St. Lawrence declined to accept the respective offices to which they had been elected, and the M. Ex. Grand Z. having appointed Ex. Comp. George Burch of St. Catharines and Ex. Comp. G. H. Fitzsimmons of Brockville as Grand Superintendents of Niagara and St. Lawrence Districts respectively. These Companions having faithfully performed the duties for the year, therefore be it resolved—That the rank of Past Grand Superintendent be conferred upon Ex. Comp. G. Burch and C. H. Fitzsimmons.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

R. Ex. Comp. J. S. Dewar of London gives notice that

at the next annual convocation of Grand Chapter he will move that, Sec. VI of Article I be amended by eliminating the words "at two o'clock in the afternoon" in the third line and adding to the same sentence after the word "Convocation" in the fifth line the following: "At such hour as the members of the Grand Council may from time to time determine."

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

Most Ex. Comp. M. Walsh, Grand Z, assisted by M. Ex. Comp. J. J. Mason, then proceeded with the installation and investiture of the newly elected officers who were proclaimed and saluted with Masonic honors.

APPOINTED OFFICERS.

Subsequently the M. E Grand Z. appointed the following:

V. Ex. Comp.		Judge Locke, Morden,	Grand	1st Asst. Sojourner.
"	"	R. Donald, Toronto,	"	2nd " "
R. "	"	J. B. Nixon, Toronto,	"	Lecturer.
V. "	"	G. C. Foster, Leamington,	"	Sword Bearer.
"	"	A. E Neil, Hamilton,	"	Master of 1st Veil.
"	"	John Taylor, Dunnville	"	Master of 2nd Veil.
"	"	Jas. Woods, Sarnia,	"	Master of 3rd Veil.
"	"	O. Doherty, Collingwood,	"	Master of 4th Veil.
"	"	John Lander, Oshawa,	"	Standard Bearer.
"	"	Wesley Latimer, Belleville,	"	Direct'r of Ceremonies
"	"	G. Summerville, Kingston,	"	Organist.
"	"	R. Vanstone, Wingham,	"	Pursuivant.
"	"	W. J. Clark, Port Arthur,	"	Steward.
"	"	J. M. Monro, Almonte	"	Steward.
"	"	G. Whitelaw, Woodstock,	"	Steward.
"	"	W. Murdoch, Toronto,	"	Steward.

APPOINTMENTS ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Most Ex. Grand Z. then nominated the following Companions as the appointed members of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year:

R. Ex. Comp.		G. J. Bennett	Toronto.
"	"	W. B. McArthur	Ottawa.
"	"	L. A. Congdon	Dunnville.
"	"	Wm. Birrell	Hamilton.
"	"	Robt. Scott	Petrolea.

VOTE OF THANKS.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved,—That the cordial vote of thanks of this Grand Chapter is due and hereby tendered to the Masonic Hall Board of Trustees, the Companions of Toronto Chapters for thoir kindly attention and fraternal reception of the officers and members of Grand Chapter, as well as the arrangements made for the Fortieth Convocation of this Grand Body.

The labors of the Grand Chapter being ended, it closed in Ample Form at 7. p. m.

GRAND CHAPTER
ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CANADA
AUDI TACE VIDE

Thos. Sargant

Grand Scribe E.

TORONTO, 27th January, A.L., 2427, A,D., 1897.

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS, 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

No.	Name of Chapter.	Where Held.	Regular Meeting.	First Principal Z.	Scribe E.	Admissions.	Joinings.	Restorations	Withdrawals	Suspensions	Deaths.	Members.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	An. Front. and Cat'i.	Kingston	Third Wednesday	W. J. Renton	J. Fortescue	4	1	..	1	...	2	74	1	...
2	The Hiram	Hamilton	Fourth Friday	Thomas Smith	William Brown	6	2	..	6	3	2	156	...	3
3	St. John's	London	Fourth Wednesday	W. J. Carson	John Siddons	4	..	2	1	1	3	132	1	...
4	St. And. and St. John	Toronto	Third Friday	—. Jones	H. T. Smith	5	..	..	7	...	1	112	...	3
5	St. George	London	Fourth Friday	Wilii m Spittal	Charles C. Reed	11	1	1	1	...	..	115	12	...
6	St. John's	Hamilton	Second Thursday	W. Teale	W. J. McAllister	9	2	1	4	6	8	209	...	6
7	Moira	Belleville	First Tuesday	William McKeown	J. O. Frost	9	..	..	..	..	..	119	9	...
8	King Solomon	Toronto	.....	William Porteus	John Roberts	12	..	..	12	10	4	167	...	14
15	Wawanosh	Sarnia	Second Friday	Robert Kerr	James Wood	16	..	..	1	...	1	97	14	...
16	Carleton	Ottawa	Third Friday,	William Bowden	W. G. S. Reynolds	5	..	..	1	...	2	75	2	...
18	Oxford	Woodstock	Third Monday	J. Hamilton	H. A. Biggins	1	1	1	1	9	..	50	...	7
19	Mount Moriah	St. Catharines	Friday on or b. f. m.	H. J. Johnston	William H. Read	2	..	..	..	..	2	89	...	...
20	Mount Horeb	Brantford	First Friday	W. L. Hughes	W. H. Inglis	9	..	..	10	6	3	60	...	10
22	Grenville	Prescott	Second Tuesday	J. E. Ryan	George Rook	3	..	..	2	1	1	53	...	1
23	Ezra	Simcoe	Thursday after f. m.	William Kennedy	W. P. Kelly	..	..	..	..	..	..	63	...	...
24	Tecumseh	Stratford	First Tuesday	J. A. Macfadden	A. E. Neil	11	..	..	1	2	..	110	8	...
26	St. Mark's	Trenton	Tuesday after f. m.	D. J. Walker, Jr.	John D. Rowe	..	..	..	1	6	..	31	...	7
27	Manitou	Collingwood	Friday on or b. f. m.	W. B. Sanders	F. B. Gregory	4	2	..	1	...	2	52	3	...
28	Pentalpha	Oshawa	Second Friday	John Lander	L. K. Murton	5	..	..	3	7	1	39	...	6
29	McCallum	Dunville	Friday after f. m.	James B. Sheehan	George T. Blackwell	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	...	...
30	Huron	Goderich	Third Tuesday	A. Lawson	W. A. Rhynas	7	1	..	..	..	..	50	8	...
31	Prince Edward	Picton	Mon'y on or af. f. m.	G. Nelson Ross	J. H. Murray	4	..	..	..	9	1	97	...	6
32	Waterloo	Galt	Second Monday	W. F. Mitchell	A. J. Oliver	1	..	..	1	..	..	51	...	...
34	Signet	Barrie	Second Tuesday	J. F. Palling	Fred. Marr	8	..	..	3	...	1	67	4	...
35	Keystone	Whitby	Third Friday	A. G. Henderson	John Reid	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	...	...
36	Corinthian	Peterboro'	Third Tuesday	John M. Shaw	H. A. Morrow	1	..	..	1	3	..	66	...	3
37	Victoria	Port Hope	Second Friday	R. C. Smith	Thomas H. Bell	6	..	..	..	..	1	49	5	...
38	Seymour	Shelburne	Second Friday	.....	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	...	...
40	Guelph	Guelph	Second Friday	R. Mahoney, Jr.	R. Webb	14	..	..	..	2	1	72	11	...
41	Harris	Ingersoll	Second Friday	William Partlo	J. F. Williams	5	..	..	..	..	..	43	5	...
44	Mount Sinai	Napanee	Wednesday af. f. m.	J. G. Bennett	R. L. Henry	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	...	...
45	Excelsior	Colborne	First Thursday	George G. Goslee	J. R. Fitzgerald	3	..	..	..	..	1	58	2	...
46	St. James	St. Marys	Third Friday	W. C. Moscrip	Fred. S. Sharp	1	..	..	..	..	..	26	1	...
47	Wellington	Chatham	Second Thursday	Thomas Sculland	James Birch	1	..	..	1	6	..	36	...	6
48	St. John's	Cobourg	Friday on or b. f. m	L. E. Horning	R. J. Craig	3	..	..	..	..	1	39	2	...
50	Saugeen	Mitchell	Thurs. on or b. f. m.	William Machan	William Babb	6	..	..	..	..	..	23	6	...

52	Prince Rupert	Winnipeg	First Thursday	W. A. Ducker	J. H. Leech	5			4	10	2	135		11
53	Bruce	Petrolea	First Thursday	John Sinclair	J. Belasco	24			1			84	23	
54	Palestine	St. Thomas	Second Thursday	H. Roe	H. Bradshaw	3	1			1	3	91		
55	Niagara	Niagara	Thursday af. f. m.	John C. Garrett	F. Masters	1					1	19		
56	Georgiau	Owen Sound	Third Tuesday	H. H. Burgess	W. A. Bishop	2						50	2	
58	Pembroke	Mattawa	Third Tuesday	John DeSousa	A. N. Graswell				1			40		1
59	Sussex	Brockville	Friday on or b. f. m.	Jonathan Greene	W. W. Wood	5			1			65	4	
60	Doric	Newmarket	First Wednesday									41		
61	Granite	Almonte	Second Monday	A. J. McAdam	J. M. Munro	1						27	1	
62	York	Eglinton	First Thursday	J. E. Clubfne	John McCarter	2			1			43	1	
63	Havelock	Kincardine	Third Thursday	J. C. Cooke	M. J. McPherson	4					1	49	3	
64	Willson	Welland	Last Wednesday	J. H. Howell	J. H. Crow	2						46	2	
65	St Paul's	Toronto	Second Wednesday	F. W. Harcourt	F. Robertson	6	1		5	1		89	1	
66	Malloch	Seaforth	Friday b. f. m	R C. Cheswright	L. C. Jackson	4						27	4	
67	Enterprise	Harriston	First Monday	George Leighton	D. Clapp	8	1					33	9	
68	Maitland	North Augusta	First Friday af. f. m.	J. Chapman	J. H. McGully	2					2	28		
69	Grimsby	Grimsby	First Wednesday									29		
70	Grand River	Bracebridge	Third Thursday	Richard Mills	F. P. Warne	3						42	3	
71	Prince of Wales	Amherstburg	First Monday	H. A. Hackett	F. M. Faibs	2						29	2	
72	Keystone	Stirling	Wednesday b. f. m.	W. C. Boardman	John Shaw				2	1		39		3
73	Erie	Ridgetown	Second Mon. af. f. m.	J. G. Crosby	J. A. C. Anderson	4						46	4	
75	St. Clair	Milton	Second Tuesday	Conrad Hoff	R. Coates	1			2	3		22		4
76	Mount Nebo	Niagara Falls South	Friday on or b. f. m.	James E. Jones	George Hyatt	3	1			13	1	45		10
77	Occident	Toronto	Second Friday	J. J. Thompson	L. H. Luke	2			1	9	2	66		10
78	Minnewawa	Parkhill	Friday on or af. f. m.	M. Dawson	G. M. Wedd	3					1	33	2	
79	Orient	Toronto	Fourth Thursday	J. W. Thompson	R. J. Beeman	9			3		1	84	5	
80	Ark	Windsor	Second Monday	George R. Anderson	R. H. Revell	11			18			116		7
81	Aylmer	Aylmer	Friday on or af. f. m.	George F. Clark	J. E. Richards	1			1			54		
82	Shuniah	Port Arthur	Third Friday	Alexander Allen	W. S. Percy	9			2	4		52	3	
83	Ionic	Orangeville	Tues. on or af. f. m.	E. N. Pike	D. McPherson	2					1	53	1	
84	Lebanon	Wingham	Third Tuesday	E. W. Tamblyn	J. A. Morton	11			2	2		32	7	
85	Exeter	Exeter	First Tuesday.	M. Eacrit	G. A. McLeod							27		
86	Macpherson	Meaford	Thurs. on or b. f. m.	James Sparling	C. F. Snelgrove	3			1			25	2	
88	Macnabb	Dresden	First Thursday	W. H. Switzer	James H. McVean	9						37	9	
90	Goldeu	Rat Portage	Second Wednesday									24		
91	Antiquity	Toronto	Third Monday	E. M. Donovan	F. Blackburn	12			3	5	1	82	3	
94	Midland	Lindsay	First Thursday	B. Dingle	George S. Patrick	7			1	4		40	2	
95	Tuscan	Sudbury	Tuesday af. f. m.	D. L. McKinnon	G. Harwood	6	2					43	6	
98	Vancouver	Vancouver	Second Wednesday	C. H. Gatewood	J. D. Hall	7	1	1	3		2	110	4	
100	St. Lawrence	Brockville	First Thursday	George Gale	W. H. Mowat	2	1				2	43	1	
101	Corinthian	Boisseevain	First Wed. af. f. m.	N. P. Buckingham	H. G. Baker							28		
102	Algonquin	Sault Ste. Marie	Second Friday	R. H. Knight	W. H. Hearst		2		2			45		
103	St. John's	North Bay	Third Monday	J. S. Lovell	W. B. Way						1	47		1
104	White Oak	Oakville	Second Tues. af. f. m.	Thomas Howarth	W. O. Joyce	3	1				1	34	3	
105	Signet	Winnipeg	Fourth Wednesday	D. C. McLaughlin	H. Cockman	5			6		1	73		2
106	Alberta	Calgary	First Tuesday	James Walker	E. Nelson Brown	6			5	2	1	48		2

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS, 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

No.	Name of Chapter.	Where Held.	Regular Meeting.	First Principal Z.	Scribe E.	Admissions.	Joinings.	Restorations	Withdrawals	Suspensions	Deaths.	Members.	Increase.	Decrease.
110	Warkworth	Warkworth	Wednesday af. f. m.	J. Humphries	S. Oliver	5	..	..	1	...	..	36	4	...
111	Zeredatha	Morden, Man	First Wednesday	D. Kilgour	Henry Meikle	...	..	..	...	...	..	25	...	...
112	St. John's	Morrisburg	Tues. on or af. f. m.	G. H. Kennedy	W. K. Farlinger	...	..	..	...	...	..	32	...	...
113	Covenant	Cornwall	Wednesday af. f. m.	E. C. Robertson	F. Bissett	...	..	..	...	...	..	40	...	...
114	Bonnechere	Renfrew	Third Monday	H. W. Cleary	William Hay	2	2	..	...	...	..	29	4	...
115	Brant	Paris	Third Friday	A. N. Parney	S. Y. Taylor	...	..	..	...	...	..	31	...	...
116	Maple	Carleton Place	First Tuesday	George McDonald	J. M. Sinclair	6	..	..	...	...	..	36	6	...
117	Berlin	Berlin	Third Monday	W. Oelschlager	H. Wildfong	6	..	..	1	...	..	27	5	...
118	North Star	Edmonton	Second Tuesday	J. J. Dunlop	Thomas Hourston	4	..	..	1	...	..	16	3	...
119	King Cyrus	Leamington	Second Wednesday	George C. Foster	J. S. Greenhill	12	..	..	...	...	..	24	12	...
120	Kootenay	Kaslo	Second Tuesday	E. E. Chipman	Charles Trumbull	9	11	..	...	...	..	24	24	..
121	Wascana	Regina	Thursday	J. M. Young	R. B. Ferguson	21	10	..	...	...	..	31	31	...
						431	44	6	126	126	62	5304	287	124

RECAPITULATION.

No. of Chapters on the Roll	94
" Chapters represented	00
" Registrations	431
" Joinings	44
" Restorations	6
" Withdrawals	126
" Suspensions	126
" Deaths	62
Total number on the Roll	5304

SUSPENDED, U. M. C.

No. 72. D. Clark, Stirling.

No. 77. J. G. McPherson, Toronto.

No. 77. Robt. Hodgins, Toronto.

SUSPENDED, N. P. D.—1897-8.

No. 2. Stewart Norman, Arthur Estcourt, R. Harper.

No. 3. Thos. Flin.

No. 6. N. J. Evans, E. A. Schlandecker, J. Chapman, G. E. Hemming, W. D. Gray, W. H. Townsend.

No. 8. H. J. Craig, Thos. Dickens, D. O. McAuliff, J. J. Pritchard, Alex. Keith, L. A. McBrien, R. E. Stanley, W. H. Stone, H. W. Rich, W. S. Milne.

No. 18. H. N. Abell, G. M. Creighton, Ira French, W. T. McMullen, John Odlum, A. T. Rice, Henry Stevens, Geo. Ulling, H. T. Woodrofe.

No. 20. A. McLellan, J. T. Slater, J. Kenny, J. I. Birchard, R. Storey, R. D. Parts.

No. 22. L. A. Ross.

No. 24. G. E. Herd, I. W. Purdy.

No. 26. J. B. Christie, L. Roenigk, G. W. Ostrom, S. S. Weaver, W. J. McComb, J. E. Glenn.

No. 28. S. T. Gates, R. McPherson, R. R. Loscombe, S. S. Edsall, N. S. Young, F. Rogers, A. McMillan.

No. 31. J. D. Gilbert, W. H. R. Allison, D. W. Allison, W. J. Handley, M. R. Allison.

No. 36. John O'Donnell, A. F. Huffman, G. J. Carly.

No. 47. Wm. Ball, E. C. Lewis, J. J. Booth, M. J. Wilson, J. S. Barrow, F. T. Dudley.

No. 52. C. Calkins, J. A. Davidson, L. A. Cusack, H. B. Rose. W. W. Matthews, C. B. Deacon, W. M. Gordon, I. K, Strachan, P. Rutherford, T. H. Bellman.

No. 54. E. H. Raymour.

No. 55. H. H. Hook.

No. 75. J. W. Fraser, W. E. Bradley, D. Zimmerman.

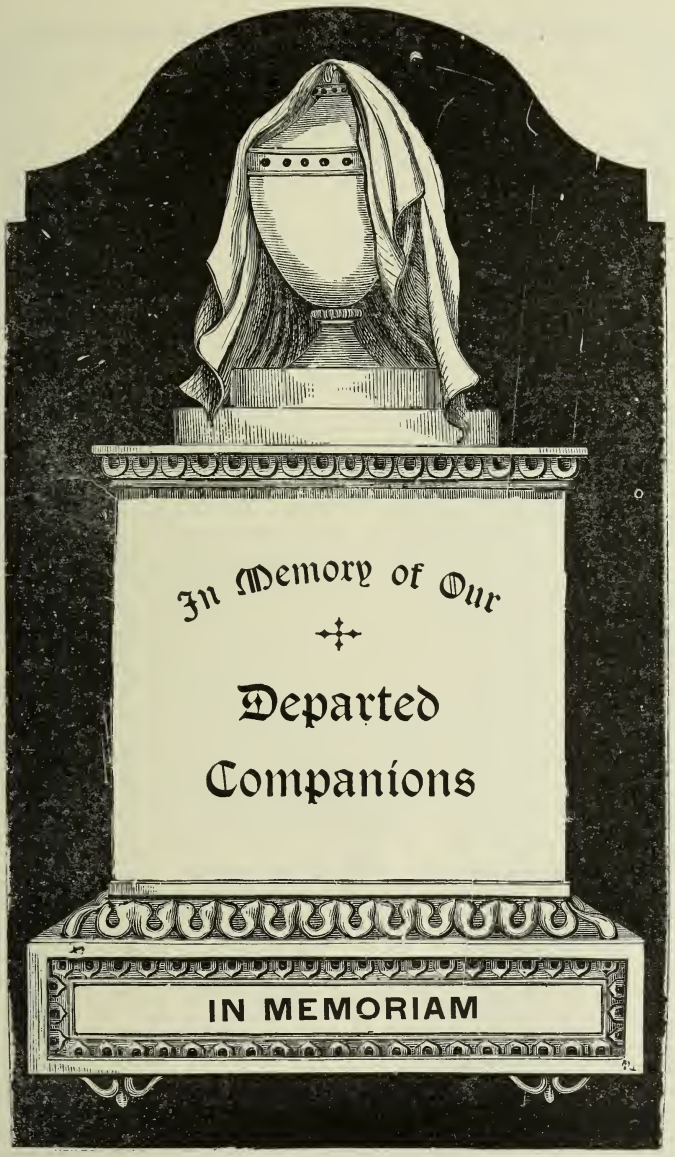
No. 76. J. N. Lovell, A. W. Martin, Jas. H. Kalor, G. Brundage, F. DeLacey, I. O. Doran, Jas. McGregor, R. C. Strange, W. L. Broughton, W. N. Hawken, H. B. Cole, Wm. McHallie, M. P. McMaster.

No. 77. J. Nasmith, R. E. Clarke, V. W. Ashford, L. B. Montgomery, I. Swanson, H. Prior, Jas. Towns.

No. 82. Jas. Bisland, J. D. Casey, W. R. Rankin, A. T. Geikie.
No. 91. G. W. Baker, J. W. Brown, W. E. Smith, J. T. Thompson, S. S. Young.
No. 94. Geo. Forrest, G. S. Thompson, J. R. Perry, J. Murphy.
No. 106. F. Lepenoters, F. Pyman.

RESTORATIONS.

No. 3. A. R. Rowat, John Kincade.
No. 5. W. W. Gammage.
No. 6. Thos. Brown.
No. 18. Geo. White.


In Memory of Our
Departed
Companions
IN MEMORIAM

At Rest.

No. of Chap.	NAME.	DATE.
1	John Sutherland.	22nd March
1	Wm. Wilson	17th February
2	E. E. Looseley	7th September, 1897
2	Harry Sweetman	5th December, 1897
3	Geo. C. Davis	21st October, 1897
3	Wm. McCormack	12th October, 1897
3	J. T O'Brien	3rd October, 1897
4	W. G. Murdoch	25th January, 1897
6	G. R. VanOrder	21st December, 1896
6	D. Carr	30th January, 1897
6	D. Aitchison	17th March, 1897
6	R. J. Harper	26th July, 1897
6	J. McKay	8th July, 1897
6	S. S. Malcolmson	10th September
6	E. Hill	20th October, 1897
6	W. Morden	3rd December, 1892
8	Jethro Worden	16th February, 1897
8	John Wright	7th April, 1897
8	D. Spry	13th August, 1897
8	C. Martin	20th September, 1897
15	Jas. Mason	7th December, 1897
16	J. T. Whelan	September, 1897
16	G. I. Wilson	October, 1897
19	J. H. Humer	20th January, 1897
19	J. C. Harris	18th September, 1897
20	J. J. Ingles	18th January, 1897
20	Wm. Roope	30th May, 1897
20	W. D. Jones	April, 1897
22	A. Grant	15th August, 1896
27	John Rowland	14th January, 1897
27	O. P. Rowland	13th October, 1897
28	Wm. McKay	October, 1897
31	Jas. N. Carter	9th April, 1897
34	**Daniel Spry**	13th August, 1897
37	H. O. Sanders	28th March, 1896
45	J. L. Knapp	21st November, 1897
48	John Gillbard	29th June, 1897
52	Wm. Crawford	February, 1897
52	J. Hedly Bell	10th March, 1897
54	Alex. Fraser	19th February, 1897
54	Wm. Mehr	25th April, 1897

At Rest.

No. of Chap.	NAME.	DATE.
54	A. Greenwood	24th May, 1897
55	I. R. Kirkland	23rd November, 1897
63	John Monro	13th December, 1897
68	John Emns	17th February, 1897
68	W. J. Elliott	26th February, 1897
77	D. Hunter	July
78	R. A. Hill	19th June, 1897
83	A. Smith	11th August, 1897
84	H. W. C. Meyer	5th February, 1897
84	John Farron	18th September, 1897
91	Jas. Allan	September, 1897
100	F. R. Feelan	15th March, 1897
100	J. Grant	6th December, 1897
104	J. A. Doty	24th August, 1897
105	Geo. Harvey	24th October, 1897
106	R. H. M. Rawlinson	

M. EX. COMPANION

DANIEL SPRY

PAST G. Z.

Died Aug. 13, 1897

LONDON

R. EX. COMPANION

T. W. BURKE

PAST G. S. N.

Died Jan. 3, 1897

LONDON

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER.

THE GRAND Z.

M. E. Comp. M. Walsh.....Ingersoll

THE GRAND H.

R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid.....Hamilton

THE GRAND J.

R. E. Comp. G. F. Shepley.....Toronto

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E	Comp	John Sale, Windsor	St. Clair	Dist. No.	1
R. E.	"	J. W. Butler, London,	London	"	2
R. E.	"	Wm. Partlo, Ingersoll,	Wilson	"	3
R. E.	"	A. Oelschlager, Berlin,	Wellington	"	4
R. E.	"	W. A. Farrah, Oakville,	Hamilton	"	5
R. E.	"	R. D. Hall, Kincardine,	Huron	"	6
R. E.	"	R. G. W. Conolly, Dunville,	Niagara	"	7
R. E.	"	N. T. Lyon, Torohto,	Toronto	"	8
R. E.	"	R. I. Fraser, Barrie,	Georgian	"	9
R. E.	"	A. E. Henry, Taunton,	Ontario	"	10
R. E.	"	Chas G. Wensley, Campbellford,	Pr. Edward	"	11
R. E.	"	Wm. Thomson, Kingston,	St. Lawrence	"	12
R. E.	"	David Barr, Renfrew,	Ottawa	"	13
R. E.	"	R. E. Mitchell, Port Arthur,	Algoma	"	14
R. E.	"	J. Jackson, Winnipeg,	Manitoba	"	15
R. E.	"	P. McNaughton, Vancouver,	B. Columbia	"	16
R E.	"	A. W. R. Markley, Calgary,	Alberta	"	17

GRAND SCRIBE E.

M. E. Comp. Thos. Sargant.....Toronto

GRAND SCRIBE N.

R. E. Comp. W. J. Robertson.....Port Hope

GRAND PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER.

R. E. Comp. S. Dubber.....St. Thomas

GRAND TREASURER.

R. E. Comp. Hugh Murray.....Hamilton

GRAND REGISTRAR.

R. E. Comp. R. W. Hull.....Toronto

APPOINTED OFFICERS.

Subsequently the M. E Grand Z. appointed the following:

V. Ex.	Comp.	Judge Locke, Morden,	Grand	1st Asst. Sojourner.
"	"	R. Donald, Toronto,	"	2nd " "
R. "	"	J. B. Nixon, Toronto,	"	Lecturer.
V. "	"	G. C. Foster, Leamington,	"	Sword Bearer.
"	"	A. E Neil, Hamilton,	"	Master of 1st Veil.
"	"	John Taylor, Dunnville	"	Master of 2nd Veil.
"	"	Jas. Woods, Sarnia,	"	Master of 3rd Veil.
"	"	O. Doherty, Collingwood,	"	Master of 4th Veil.
"	"	John Lander, Oshawa,	"	Standard Bearer.
"	"	Wesley Latimer, Belleville,	"	Direct'r of Ceremonies
"	"	G. Summerville, Kingston,	"	Organist.
"	"	R. Vanstone, Wingham,	"	Pursuivant.
"	"	W. J. Clark, Port Arthur,	"	Steward.
"	"	J. M. Monro, Almonte	"	Steward.
"	"	G. Whitelaw, Woodstock,	"	Steward.
"	"	W. Murdoch, Toronto,	"	Steward.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, Hamilton, President.

BY VIRTUE OF OFFICE.

M. E.	Comp.	John E Harding	Stratford
"	"	Donald Ross	Picton
"	"	Robert Hendry, Jr	Kingston
"	"	R. B. Hungerford	London
"	"	J. J. Mason	Hamilton
"	"	Thomas Sargant	Toronto
"	"	Henry Robertson	Collingwood
"	"	Kivas Tully	Toronto
"	"	J. Ross Robertson	Toronto
R. E.	"	G. F. Shepley	Toronto

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E.	Comp.	John Sale, Windsor,	St. Clair Dist. No.	1
R. E.	"	J. W. Butler, London,	London "	2
R. E.	"	Wm. Partloe, Ingersoll,	Wilson "	3
R. E.	"	A. Ochschlager, Berlin,	Wellington "	4
R. E.	"	W. A. Farrah, Oakville,	Hamilton "	5
R. E.	"	R. D. Hall, Kincardine,	Huron "	6
R. E.	"	R. G. W. Conolly, Dunville,	Niagara "	7
R. E.	"	N. T. Lyon, Toronto,	Toronto "	8
R. E.	"	R. I. Fraser, Barrie,	Georgian "	9
R. E.	"	A. E. Henry, Taunton,	Ontario "	10
R. E.	"	Chas. G. Wensley, Campbellford,	Pr. Arthur "	11
R. E.	"	Wm. Thomas, Kingston,	St. Lawrence "	12

R. E.	"	D. Barr, Renfrew,	Ottawa	Dist. No. 13
R. E.	"	R. E. Mitchell, Port Arthur,	Algoma	" 14
R. E.	"	J. Jackson, Winnipeg,	Manitoba	" 15
R. E.	"	P. McNaughton, Vancouver,	B. Columbia.	" 16
R. E.	"	A. W. R. Markley, Calgary,	Alberta	" 17

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.

M. E. Comp. Thos. Sargant, Toronto ....Granp Scribe E.
R. E. Comp. W. J. Robertson Port Hope .....Grand Scribe N.

ELECTED BY GRAND CHAPTER.

R. E. Comp.	D. F. Macwatt	Barrie
" "	Wm. Roaf	Toronto
" "	D. H. Martyn	Kincardine
" "	A. Shaw	Kingston
" "	A. R. Hargraft	Cobourg

APPOINTED BY GRAND Z.

R. E. Comp.	G. J. Bennett	Toronto
" "	Wm. Birrell	Hamllton
" "	L. A. Congdon	Dunnville
" "	W. B. McArthur	Ottawa
" "	Robert Scott	Petrolia

SUB-COMMITTEES

AUDIT AND FINANCE.

R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, Chairman; W. A. Farrah, Robt. Scott, R. D. Hall, R. I. Fraser, A. E. Henry, Wm. Thomas.

BENEVOLENCE.

M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding, Chairman; R. B. Hungerford, R. E. Comp. J. S. Dewar.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

R. E. Comp. D. F. Macwatt, Chairman; John Sale, J. W. Butler, A. R. Hargraft, R. G. W. Conolly, D. Barr, R. E. Mitchell.

GRAND Z'S ADDRESS.

M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, Chairman; J. J. Mason, Robt. Hendrie, Jr., R. B. Hungerford, Kivas Tully, Donald Ross, H. Robertson.

WARRANTS.

R. E. Comp. G. F. Shepley, Chairman; W. J. Robertson, A. Oelschlager, Wm. Partlo, L. A. Congdon, Wm. Birrell, P. McNaughton.

CONDITION OF CAPITULAR MASONRY.

R. E. Comp. Roaf, Chairman; G. J. Bennett, C. G. Wensley, W. B. McArthur, N. T. Lyon, A. W. R. Markley.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

R. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett.

LIST OF CHAPTERS—BY DISTRICTS.

ST. CLAIR DISTRICT NO. 1.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. John Sale, Windsor.

No. 47, Wellington .....Chatham	No. 80, Ark ....Windsor
No. 71, Pr. of Wales, Amherstb'g	No. 88, Macnabb.....Dresden
No. 73, Erie.... .....Ridgetown	No. 119, King Cyrus..Leamington

LONDON DISTRICT NO. 2.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. W. Butler, London.

No. 3, St. John's.....London	No. 54, Palestine .....St. Thomas
" 5, St. George's..... "	" 87, Minnewawa ...Parkhill
" 15, Wawanosh.....Sarnia	" 81, Aylmer.....Aylmer
" 53, Bruce..... Petrolea	

WILSON DISTRICT, NO. 3

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Wm. Partlo, Ingersoll.

No. 18, Oxford . .....Woodstock	No. 41, Harris.....Ingersoll
" 20. Mount Horeb.. Brantford	" 115, Brant.....Paris
" 23, Esra .....Simcoe	

WELLINGTON DISTRICT, NO. 4.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp A. Oelschlager, Berlin.

No. 32, Waterloo .....Galt	No. 67, Enterprise .....Harriston
" 38, Seymour.....Shelbourne	" 83, Ionic ..... Orangeville
" 40, Guelph.....Guelph	" 117, Berlin.....Berlin

HAMILTON DISTRICT, NO. 5.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. W. A. Ferrah, Oakville.

No. 2, Hiram .....Hamilton	No. 75, St. Clair.....Milton
" 6, St. John's..... "	" 104, White Oak .. .. Oakville

HURON DISTRICT, NO. 6.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. R. D. Hall, Kincardine.

No. 24, Tecumseh .....Stratford	No. 63, Havelock.... Kincardine
" 30, Huron.....Goderich	" 66, Malloch..... Seaforth
" 46, St. James.....St. Marys	" 84, Labanon .....Wingham
" 50, Saugeen.....Mitchell	" 85, Exeter.....Exeter

NIAGARA DISTRICT, NO. 7.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. R. G. W. Conolly, Dunnville.

No. 19, Mt. Moriah.... St. Cath's	No. 64, Wilson .....Welland
" 29, McCallum .....Dunnville	" 69, Grimsby.....Grimsby
" 55, Niagara.....Niagara	" 76, Mt. Nebo Niagara. F.S.

TORONTO DISTRICT, NO. 8.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. N. T. Lyon, Toronto.

No. 4, S. And. & S John Toronto	No. 65, St. Paul's .....Toronto
" 8, King Solomon.... "	" 77, Occident ..... "
" 60, Doric.....Newmarket	" 79, Orient..... "
" 62, York.....Eglington	" 91, Antiquity..... "

GEORGIAN DISTRICT NO. 9.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. R. I. Fraser, Barrie.

No. 27, Manitou .....Collingwood	No. 70, Grand River....Braceb'ge
" 34, Signet .....Barrie	" 86, Macpherson .....Meaford
" 56, Georgian ....Owen Sound	" 103, St. John's ....North Bay

ONTARIO DISTRICT NO. 10.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. A. E. Henry, Taunton.

No. 28, Pentalpha.....Oshawa	No. 45, Excelsior.....Colborne
" 35, Keystone .....Whitby	" 48, St. John's... ...Cobourg
" 36, Corinthian.. ...Peterboro	" 94, Midland.....Lindsay
" 37, Victoria. .....Port Hope	" 110, Warkworth ..Warkworth

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT, NO. 11.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp C. G. Wensley, Campbellford.

No 7, Moira.....Belleville	No. 44, Mount Sinai... Napanee
" 26, St, Mark's. .....Trenton	" 72, Keystone.....Stirling
" 31, Prince Edward....Picton	

ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT, NO. 12.

Grand Superintendent—E. Comp. Wm. Thomson, Kingston.

No. 1, Anc. Frontenac and Cataraqui ....Kingston	No. 68, Maitland.....N. Augusta
" 22, Grenville .....Prescott	" 100, St. Lawrence ..Brockville
" 59, Sussex .....Brockville	" 112, St. John's ....Morrisburg
	" 113, Covenant....Farran's Pt.

OTTAWA DISTRICT, NO. 13.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. David Barr, Renfrew.

No. 16, Carleton .....Ottawa	" 114, Bonnechere.....Renfrew
" 58, Pembroke..... Mattawa	" 116, Maple.....Carleton Place
" 61, Granite.....Almonte	

ALGOMA DISTRICT, NO, 14.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. R. E. Mitchell, Port Arthur.

No. 82, Shuniah... Port Arthur	No. 102, Algonquin... Sault Ste. Marie.
" 90, Golden.....Rat Portage	
" 95, Tuscan.....Sudbury	

MANITOBA DISTRICT, NO. 15.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. Jackson, Winnipeg.

No. 52, Prince Rupert . .Winnipeg
" 99, Keystone. . . .P. la Prarie
" 101, Corinthian . . . .Boissevain
No. 105, Signet . . . . . Winnipeg
" 111, Zeradatha. . . . . Morden

BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT, NO. 16.

Grand Superintendent.—R E. Comp. P. McNaughton, Vancouver.

No. 98, Vancouver. . Vancouver. No. 120, Kootenay . Kaslo.

ALBERTA DISTRICT, NO. 17.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. A. W. R Markley, Calgary.

No. 106, Alberta. . . . . Calgary
No. 118, North Star . . . Edmonton
No. 121, Wascana Regina.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES AND GRAND SECRETARIES.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.						GRAND SECRETARIES.	
At Grand Chapter of Canada.			*Jurisdiction.*	*From Grand Chapter of Canada.*		*Name.*	*Address.*
R.E.	Comp. W. B McArthur	Ottawa	Alabama	E. Comp.	Jos. H. Johnson	Talladega	H. C. Armstrong	Montgomery
"	" C. A. Humber	Goderich	Arizona	R.E. "	John M. Ormsby	Tuscan	Geo. J. Rosknuge	Tucson
"	" John McLaren	Orangeville	Arkansas	E "	S. A Pernot	Van Buren	James A. Henry	Little Rock
"	" Samuel Wesley	Barrie	California	M.E. "	N. W. Spaulding	Oakland	Thos. H. Caswell	San Francisco
"	" A. McGinnis	Belleville	Colorado	E. "	Lawrence N. Greenleaf	Denver	Ed. C. Parmelee	Denver
"	" A. Shaw	Kingston	Connecticut	E. "	W. R. Higby	Bridgeport	J. McCormick	Hartford
"	" T. C. Macnabb	Chatham	Delaware	E. "	Geo. F. Young	Wilmington	James H. Price	Wilmington
"	" Hugh Murray	Hamilton	District of Columbia	M.E. "	P. McCoy, M.D	Washington	A. W. Johnston	Washington
"	" A. B. Munson	London	Florida	" "	Robert J. Perry	Key West	W. A. McLean	Jacksonville
M.E.	" R. B. Hungerford	London	Georgia	" "	W. A. Graham	Fort Gaines	A. M. Wohlin	Macon
R.E.	" Wm. Forbes	Grimsby	Illinois	" "	C. H. Patton	Mt. Vernon	Gil. W. Barnard	Chicago
"	" George Waugh	Stratford	Indiana	E. "	Thos. R. Marshall	Colb'a City	W. H. Smythe	Indianapolis
"	" C. W. Postlethwaite	Toronto	Iowa	E. "	L. J. Baker	Ottumwa	Alf. Wingate	DesMoines
			Ireland	E. "	J. H. Neison	Dublin	Archibald St. George	Dublin
"	" D. H. Martyn	Kincardine	Indian Territor	"	John Rennie	Lehigh	Joseph S. Murrow	Atoka
"	" J. M. Gibson	Hamilton	Kansas	M.E. "	Jacob DeWitt	Salina	Jacob DeWitt	Salina
M.E	" Thos. Sargant	Toronto	Kentucky	" "	H. R. French	Mt Sterling	Henry B. Grant	Louisville
R.E.	" John Creasor	Owen Sound	Louisiana	R.E. "	Andrew Hero, Jr	New Orleans	Richard Lambert	New Orleans
"	" B. Allen	Toronto	Maine	M E. "	Andrew J. Fuller	Bath	Stephen Berry	Portland
"	" L. A. Congdon	Dunnville	Maryland	E. "	J. M. Carter	Baltimore	Geo. L. McCahan	Baltimore
M.E.	" John E. Harding	Stratford	Massachusetts	R.E. "	Edwin Wright	Boston	J. Albert Blake	Boston
			Michigan				J fferson S. Conover	Coldwater
R.E.	" Wm. Downie	Vancouver	Minnesota	" "	Orville G. Miller	St. Paul	Thos. Montgomery	St. Paul
"	" J. A. Morton	Kincardine	Mississippi	" "	P. W. Rowland	Coffeeville	J. L. Power	Jackson
"	" Wm. Gibson	Beamsville	Missouri	" "	Erwin Ellis	St. Louis	W. H. Mayo	St. Louis
			Montana				Cornelius Hodges	Helena
M.E.	" J. Ross Robertson	Toronto	Nebraska	" "	W. T. Whitmarsh	Omaha	Wm. R. Bowen	Omaha
R.E.	" Jas. Sutherland	Woodstock	New Brunswick	" "	R. Marshall	St John, N.B.	J. A. Watson	St. John
"	" John S. Dewar	London	New Hampshire	" "	Alphus W. Baker	Lebanon	Geo. P. Cleaves	Concord
"	" J. McLean Stevenson	Barrie	New Jersey	" "	W. H. McIlhaney	New York	Geo. B. Edwards	Jersey City

M.E.	"	J. J. Mason	Hamilton	Nevada		R.E.	Comp.	Frank Bell	Reno
"	"	Hy. Robertson	Collingwood	New York		"	"	W. G. Thirkell	New York
R.E.	"	James Wilson	Toronto	North Carolina		E.	"	Chas. C. Clarke	New Berne
"	"	Wm. G. Bell	Winnipeg	North Dakota		M.E.	"	Geo. H. Keyes	Ellendale
"	"	J. Moodie	Hamilton	Nova Scotia			"	Neil McKelvie	Summerside
V.E.	"	Hugh A. Mackay	Berlin	Ohio		R.E.	"	C. A. Woodward	Cleveland
R.E.	"	J. Baker	Stratford	Oregon		E.	"	Donald McKay	Portland
"	"	Donald McPhie	Hamilton	Pennsylvania		R.E.	"	Thos. R. Patton	Philadelphia
"	"	D. F. Macwatt	Barrie	Quebec		M.E.	"	Will. H. Whyte	Montreal
M.E.	"	M. Walsh	Ingersoll	Rhode Island		R E.	"	W. R. Greene	Providence
R.E.	"	J. K. Kerr	Toronto	Scotland		"	"	The Rt Hon. the Earl of Kintore, Carleton Club, London, Eng.	
"	"	G. V. T. Greenhill	Windsor	South Carolina		E.	"	John R. Bellinger	Bamberg
"	"	A. E Cooper	London	South Dakota				Robt. T. Sedam	St. Lawrence
"	"	H. H. Watson	Vancouver	Tennessee				Jos. H. Bullock	Paris
"	"	E. T. Malone	Toronto	Texas		E.	"	George Lopaz	Texas
"	"	J. B. Nixon	Toronto	Vermont		E.	"	C. W. Whitcomb	Proctorsville
"	"	Alex. Patterson	Toronto	Virginia		M.E.	"	Rev. G. H. Ray	Lynchburg
				Washington					
"	"	David Taylor	Ottawa	West Virginia		R E.	"	Stephen W. Poe	Grafton
"	"	Gavin Stewart	Woodstock	Wisconsin		M.E.	"	A. J. Wallace	Durant

C. C. Noteware	Carson City
Christopher G. Fox	Buffalo
Horace H. Munson	Wilmington
F. J. Thompson	Fargo
D. H. Campbell	Halifax
Chas. C. Keifer	Urbana
James F. Robinson	Eugene
Charles Cary	Philadelphia
Will H. Whyte	Montreal
W. R. Greene	Providence
Robt. S. Brown	Edinburgh
J. T. Barron	Columbia
Geo. A. Pettigrew	Flandreau
W. A. Clendenning	Nashville
Geo. Lopas, Jr	Houston
Warren J. Reynolds	Burlington
James P. Blanks	Petersburg
Yancy C. Blalock	Walla Walla
Odell S. Long	Wheeling
John W. Laffin	Milwaukee

CHAIRMEN FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Jurisdiction.	*Name.*	*Address.*	*Jurisdiction.*	*Name.*	*Address.*
Alabama	Palmer J. Pilans	Mobile	Montana	Cornelius Hodges	Helena
Arizona			Nebraska	Charles J. Phelps	Omaha
Arkansas	R. J. Laughlin	Bentonville	New Brunswick		
California	W. A. Davis	San Francisco	New Hampshire	A. S. Wait	Newport
Canada	George J. Bennett	Toronto	New Jersey	George B. Edwards	Jersey City
Colorado	E. Leve N. Foster	Georgetown	Nevada		
Connecticut	John H. Barlow	Birmingham	New York	George J. Gardiner	Syracuse
Delaware	V. H. Harrison	Wilmington	North Carolina	James Southgate	Durham
District of Columbia	W. R. Singleton	Washington	North Dakota		Fargo
Florida	Enos Wasgate	Jacksonville	Nova Scotia	D. H. Campbell	Halifax
Georgia	W. S. Ramsay	Dublin	Ohio	S. Stacker Williams	Toledo
Illinois	John M. Pearson	Godfrey	Oregon	J. M. Hodson	Portland
Indiana	Thomas B. Long	Terra Haute	Pennsylvania	M. H. Henderson	Philadelphia
Iowa	T. R. Ercanbrack	Annamosa	Quebec	E. D. T. Chambers	Montreal
Ireland			Rhode Island	Rev. W. W. Rugg	Providence
Indian Territory	J. S. Murray	Atoka	South Carolina	Albert E. Fugle	Columbia
Kansas	J. DeWitt	Salina	South Dakota	Lewis G. Levoy	Webster
Kentucky	James W. Stanton	Brookville	Tennessee	H. H. Ingersoll	
Louisiana	Rev. H. C. Duncan	Alexandria	Texas	John N. Terrel	Terrel
Maine	J. H. Drummond	Portland	Vermont	Marshall O. Perkins	Windsor
Maryland	E. T. Schultz	Baltimore	Virginia		
Massachusetts	Seranus Bowen	Boston	Washington	Yancey C. Blalock	Walla Walla
Michigan	Jefferson S. Conover	Coldwater	West Virginia	Odell S. Long	Charleston
Minnesota	Thomas Montgomery	St Paul	Wisconsin	Wm. C. Swain	Milwaukee
Mississippi	P. M. Savery	Tupelo	Scotland		
Miss uri	W. H. Mayo	St. Louis			

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APPENDIX.

REPORT ON

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the M. E. the Grand Z., and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada:

The accompanying review of the proceedings of the Grand Chapters to hand, is hereby respectfully submitted, and in .doing so, your committee desire to record its deep sense of the great responsibility involved in the undertaking and its grateful satisfaction that the onerous duties, imperfectly carried out hitherto, have been appreciated, not only by the Companions of this jurisdiction, but by those of other Grand Chapters who have been appointed to inspect and report upon the work.

The questions under discussion have been, during the period just ended, much of the same nature as those dealt with in former reports. The Past Master's degree continues to develop opponents and to find supporters. With some the "physical perfection" and "dependent membership" theories are standard themes for debate. ritual and ceremonial work are, in not a few cases, fruitful subjects for presiding and inspecting officers. The necessity for a larger measure of official visitation is attracting attention, and will, if pursued, be productive of benefit, while such matters as Masonic ceremonies in public, the introduction of the feminine element and other features, regarded as innovation by some and aids by others, reveal symptoms of future controversy and fraternal dispute.

But standing out prominently from everything else are the almost unbroken harmony and steady progress that characterize the Royal Craft everywhere, despite frequent periods of gloom and depression and the ever present working of adverse influences. May the Great Omnipotent regard with Divine favour the labors of the Companions of the Royal Arch conducted in His Holy Name, and may the good work proceed until in

the fullness of time the disturbing contentions of aspiring rulers and nations shall yield to the peaceful cementing influence of a universal brotherhood.

As formerly, so now, the Grand Chapters are arranged in alphabetical order.

Alabama.

Chapters, 39; members, 1,008.

Since the last Annual Convocation two of the Chapters forfeited their right to existence and were dropped. There were no additions. Grand Chapter on the 30th November, 1896, again convened in the Masonic Temple, Montgomery, the M. E., John E. Smith, presiding for the second time. His address was built much upon similar lines to those of the previous year, and stoutly he maintained the position he then assumed with regard to what he believes is a pressing necessity for the immediate adoption of the ritual promulgated by the General Grand Chapter.

The Committee on the address at that time expressed a very emphatic dissent from such a view and with equal sincerity confirms its former pronunciamento, this time predicting dire disaster should Alabama ever depart from the good old method. As the G. H. P. has returned "to the ranks prepared to work where duty calls," it is just possible that the subject will have a rest for a period.

Companion Smith in passing refers to the national excitement of the year but gratefully announces that "the cyclone is over and the country is safe," and gives a page to the inroads of death with "the all devouring scythe of time." It was a Florida ruler who employed that voracious implement the previous year, and it is presumed that it was just in a neighborly way only that it was borrowed.

He was zealous in visitation, issued a number of inevitable dispensations, appointed Grand Representatives, devoted a section to some timely advice to Chapter officers, emphasized by two "finallys," and closed with the time honored appeal for "the broad mantle" in case he has made any mistakes. That his

work was appreciated is made clear later when his Companions voted him a testimonial.

A series of resolutions adopted at the previous Convocation and which embraced a plan for furthering the interests of the subordinate Chapters was repealed at this Convocation, the scheme of visitation, etc., outlined therein not proving workable.

This is what the committee replied to the G. H. P's advocacy of the General Grand's ritual:

"We are now confirmed in the conclusion then reached, and, in view of the statement made by the efficient Chairman of our Committee on Work, that the work as adopted and practiced by this Grand Chapter follows closely and is substantially the work of the General Grand Chapter, we therefore reiterate our former opinion that printed rituals might prove disastrous; that they are unnecessary, for one who will not learn the work now would not be likely to do so from a printed Ritual."

A motion to amend the constitution, by making the minimum fee thirty dollars, was snowed under, and one substituting the words "twenty dollars" was laid over for consideration, the following rider being subsequently added:

"*Provided*, That all regularly ordained ministers of the gospel actively engaged in their calling, and who are in good standing with their respective lodges, shall be entitled, upon application therefor, to receive said degrees gratuitously."

It will be curious to observe how a conservative jurisdiction like Alabama, that regards the ritual of the General Grand Chapter as a menace to its peace, will treat the above daring proposition. It would seem however that brethren of the cloth are generously treated down south, for in looking over the expenditures of the Grand Chapter it is noticed that a sum of $20 was set apart for the Grand Chaplain, the sum total of whose services, according to the proceedings, is to "offer prayer" at opening and "solemn prayer" at closing.

The Finance Committee's report closes thus:

"We regret to find that a number of Chapters are delinquent in the payment of annual dues, thereby lessening the receipts of the Grand Chapter, which has necessitated rigid economy in our appropriations. Your Committee believe that

every officer should be compensated commensurate with the duties and dignity of his station, but the condition of our exchequer precludes this. We trust, however, that good times are coming, and that the future will be fruitfnl of better results."

And in the appropriations for the following year the Grand Chaplain is not to be found.

The Committee on Appeals etc., reported a lack of employment, and advanced as a "cause for sincere rejoicing" that "Royal Arch Masons in this Grand jurisdiction are at peace with one another."

Companion Palmer J. Pillan's thirtieth report on Correspondence is a review of forty-two Grand Chapters, and is as entertaining and instructive as ever. May he long be spared, a pillar of strength to the Masonic Arch in Alabama.

Josiah Jernigan, Troy, Grand High Priest;
H. Clay Armstrong, Montgomery, Grand Secretary.

Arizona.

Chapters, 4; members, 194.

Tucson saw the seventh annual Convocation opened on the 11th November, 1896, the Grand officers and representatives of the four chartered Chapters being present. Rickmer Nickels Fredericks, Grand High Priest, presided, and the proceedings opened with "prayer by the Grand Chaplain and music by the choir."

The Grand High Priest congratulated Grand Chapter upon "a healthy gain of fifteen" and a bright outlook. He refers to the recent political contest which may excuse a patriotic outburst:

"And last, but not least, let us constantly remember that we are all citizens of this great and glorious republic, equally interested in her welfare and in maintaining pure and unsullied our national flag and honor.

To those of our Companions at home. who had to engage passage to the 'Rio Salado,' I say, be of good cheer; other good men and true have made the same trip before you."

The same notable event may have been responsible for a falling away in official zeal:

"It was my firm intention to visit the four Chapters in this jurisdiction during the year, but business engagements did not permit."

The members of the committee to whom was entrusted the address saw nothing to find fault with:

"We have read with care the carefully prepared and pleasing report, and can truly congratulate the fraternity upon the condition of the several Chapters and the manner in which the affairs have been conducted during the past year, and congratulate the Most Excellent the Grand High Priest upon his efficiency and deep interest in the progress of the Royal Craft."

All the reports indicated a blissful condition of peace, and there was little to engage the attention of Grand Chapter. Canada's representative, R. E. Comp. J. M. Ormsby, was among the envoys who were received and acknowledged.

Although Flagstaff Chapter fell out of the race in 1893 and forfeited its charter, Grand Chapter is good enough to give a place to it in the "proceedings," and includes its membership (twelve) in its 194 "Royal Arch Masons, 1st October, 1896."

There is no report on Correspondence.

Morris Goldwater, Prescott, Grand High Priest.
George J. Roskruge, Tucson, Grand Secretary.

Arkansas.

Chapters, 56; Members, 1,897.

The proceedings of the forty-seventh annual Convocation, held at Little Rock, on the 19th November, 1896, did not reveal anything startling, certainly nothing to excite unusual interest in an outsider.

It is a little puzzling to arrive at the strength of Grand Chapter. Statistician Laughlin, who is credited with rare accuracy, gives the number of subordinates as 55, which with the new Chapter, Malvern, would make the total 56. The Chapter Directory at page 212 embraces but 53 Chapters, while the "Synopsis" at page 221, returns 55. The Committee on Returns, however, reported seventy Chapters on the roll which

would lead to the inference that Arkansas rejoices in the happy conviction that the silent ones are "not dead but sleeping."

M. E. Comp. Roten's address opened with a modest disclaimer against the gift of "speech":

"After the eloquent addresses which have been delivered by the Companions who have preceded me in this high and honorable position, Companions whose eloquence has thrilled the civilized world, it becomes a difficult task for me to say aught that has not been already much better said."

If he is not an orator however, he is a worker, for he "visited a great many Chapters in the rural districts and found them in a healthy and growing condition."

An active and highly esteemed member, Grand Treasurer, F. Kramer, died during the year and the Grand High Priest paid a touching tribute to his memory.

Malvern Chapter, U. D., received its charter and a resolution authorizing the G. H. P. to take steps to revive dormant Chapters was adopted.

The Grand Chapter of Victoria was recognized and "extends fraternal greetings and interchange of representatives."

A resolution permitting the use of two substitutes in conferring the R. A. degree was adopted.

Comp. Laughlin has been given a freer hand this year and his report on Correspondence is a welcome addition to the volume. He reviews Canada for 1895:

"M. E. Grand Z., J. Ross Robinson, delivered a very long address, abounding in beautiful word paintings, and did not begin at 'another milepost in the annual cycle of eternity.'"

And when Past Grand Z. Robertson's optic catches the above, there will probably be some additional word painting, although it is quite apparent that the printer is responsible.

He goes for the Illinois man later on, for tacking on the prefix Mac to his name. Don't blame him either, especially if he disclaims descent from that green isle that possesses "the finest pisintry under the sun."

By "Mac" and "O" you'll always know
An Irishman, they say,
But if they lack the "O" or "Mac,"
No Irishmen are they.

Under Michigan he has the following, showing that Arkansas on the question of S. N. P. D. is in harmony with Canada.

"We believe that suspension is the proper Masonic penalty for failure to pay dues, and we think that the case should be a very strong one, showing clearly that it was neglect, and not inability to pay, to merit suspension; and the payment of dues in full should reinstate without further action by the Chapter."

George P. Taylor, Forest City, Grand High Priest.
James A. Henry, Little Rock, Grand Secretary.

California.

Chapters, 67; members, 5,313.

The M. E., Thos. Flint, Sr., Grand High Priest, opened the forty-third annual Convocation in San Francisco's Masonic Temple, on the 20th April, 1897, and delivered a good business like address.

In a previous report mention is made of the loose condition of affairs in Benicia Chapter, No. 7, which was left to the incoming G. H. P. to tighten. He was prompt in action for by February he had the Chapter in good working condition under his personal supervision.

He also visited Woodland Chapter, the membership of which had been toying with the Cerneau monstrosity, and succeeded in bringing the accused ones to a realization of their error.

"After a lapse of considerable time, in which communications were exchanged, a revocation was sent me signed by the seven against whom the original charges were preferred; also by another Companion who found himself liable to a similar charge. The papers in this case are on file with the Grand Secretary, and await your action.

It is my recommendation that the charges be dismissed without prejudice to the standing of the Companions involved in the cases under consideration."

His attention was directed to a notice in a Sacramento newspaper signed by one Cornelius Kellogg, 33°, T. P. G. M., calling a meeting of a "Grand Lodge of Perfection" for a certain evening and inviting all sojourning "fourteenths" to be present. He immediately "camped on the trail" of Cornelius, found that he was or had been a Chapter member, and followed him up until he secured a trial and finally his expulsion from the Capitular Craft.

"A man is occasionally found so constituted that he prefers 'to rule in *hell* than serve in *heaven*.' When found, such a person, if a Companion, should be sent to his own place."

Two Chapters exhibited symptoms of sure decay and he at once called in the charter of one of them "without prejudice," and recommended similar action in the other case. Concluding the Grand High Priest consolingly says:

"You have my story; it is not a long one. If I have left anything undone that ought to have been done, I am not aware of the fact.

If any Chapter feels aggrieved that I have not paid it an official visit, I recommend that the cost of the traditional banquet be paid into the treasury of the Widows' and Orphans' Home."

A Companion of Washington Chapter made complaint that the sum of $130 was taken from the Chapter funds by the Companions, and expended in an entertainment in which the families of the members participated. This expenditure, the Companion stated, was in controversion of a by-law made and provided. The Committee on Grievances decided that it had nothing whatever to do with the violation of the by-laws of a Chapter by officers or members until after there shall have been proper proceedings taken in the Chapter itself.

A motion by Companion W. H. Davies "that hereafter the respective offices of Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer shall not be held by the same person," did not seem to find favor. The Jurisprudence Committee reported it back and on motion it was postponed indefinitely.

The following resolution was adopted, that

"At each Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, at two o'clock p. m., on the first day thereof, the Grand Lecturer shall exemplify before the Grand Chapter one or more of the degrees, or cause the same to be done by Companions selected by him for that purpose."

And also this which it may be predicted will furnish some employment for that committee:

"That the Committee on Jurisprudence be instructed to formulate some plan whereby the Secretaries of the subordinate Chapters may have knowledge of the standing of their respective Chapters in the Blue Lodge, and report such plan at the next meeting of the Grand Chapter."

It is presumed that the above should read "the standing of the members of their respective Chapters."

Companion W. A. Davies, introducing his report on Correspondence, has this to say:

"At no former time during the nearly half century of our Masonic experience do we recall the same harmonious condition which now exists; this condition seems not confined to any section of our country, but is general, although more apparent in cities than in sparsely settled Masonic communities."

The Cerneau reptile must have been killed this time, not scotched.

It is a matter of regret that Canada could not be as "prompt as usual," so as to reach Companion Davies in time. We had to run eighteen months instead of twelve, and as he is only one of a number similarly "neglected," the gap will of course be apparent in many other reports. It was with pleasure that we perused Companion Davies, but are with those who think that his report is not done the justice it merits in sandwiching it in with the Chapter proceedings. To our mind he would improve it himself by reviewing the proceedings of the Councils of Anointed High Priests distinct from the report.

William Frank Pierce, Oakland, Grand High Priest.
Thos. H. Caswell, San Francisco, Grand Secretary.

Colorado.

Chapters, 33; Members, 2,490.

On the 17th September, 1896, the twenty-seventh annual Convocation was called to order by M. E. Geo. T. Cooper, Grand High Priest. There was a gratifying attendance.

The annual address revealed the fact that the Grand High Priest's term was one of activity, and he did much good work by visitation. He issued a dispensation for a new Chapter at Cripple Creek, which did so well in the interval that a charter was not denied.

Among his decisions is the following deliverance:

"The fact of a Master Mason dimitting from his Lodge does not affect his status as a Royal Arch Mason."

A fair indication that dependent membership is not Colorado's creed.

The Grievances Committee had nothing before it, thus confirming the Grand High Priest's statement that all was peace within the jurisdiction.

The Finance Committee recommended that the names of members of the various subordinate Chapters be omitted in the printed proceedings, which was sensible. The committee also recommended that the Correspondence report be condensed, and hereafter limited to fifty pages, which was the reverse.

The curtailment of Comp. Foster's report will be felt even by the Companions who agreed to the recommendation. That is just the kind of economy that always works the wrong way. His document this year is admirable, It embraces about one hundred pages and could not, with justice to the writer, be done in less. To confine him to fifty is little short of cruelty.

Under California he intimates that Colorado years ago abolished the affiliation fee, and agrees with the Kansas reviewer that Canada's reduction of the fee is a serious mistake.

The Kentucky man descants on the beauty and impressiveness of music by ladies (concealed of course),

as an aid to the Scottish Rite degrees at Cincinnati annually, and Comp. Foster replies:

"We do claim the privilege of adding 32° to our name, and if lucky enough to be in Cincinnati at the time designated, shall certainly take advantage of the opportunity to listen to the fair Ohioans, though we retain our right to disagree as to the propriety of such proceeding."

To Comp. W. Whyte, of Quebec, who had something to say of the influence of the Craft universal as a counteracting power to the ravings of Cockney jingoes and American tail twisters, Comp. Foster remarks:

"Being a native Britisher, although no longer owing allegiance to that great nation, we appreciate the above remarks, and truly believe that it is more jingo and politics that tries to stir up strife where peace should exist than any ill feeling on the part of the American people towards their European cousins."

Referring to a West Virginian action in striking out the by-law of a Chapter which provided that members in arrears for dues at the time of election could not vote, he pertinently says;

"Such summary action is quite unmasonic; whether it be a serious charge or a light one, every Mason is entitled to a hearing before being declared guilty of a Masonic offense, and unless an offense has been committed there is no right to deprive a member of his vote. The committee and Grand Chapter did the right thing when they struck it out."

It is earnestly hoped that the Colorado Grand Chapter will reconsider its decision in reference to the Correspondence report.

James H. Peabody, Canon City, Grand High Priest.
Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver, Grand Secretary.

Connecticut.

Chapters, 38; members, 5,433.

On the eve of its centennial, and notwithstanding its age, this hale old Grand Chapter can happily report an increased strength, although the number withdrawn and otherwise removed from the roll, was large.

M. E., Samuel S. Lamb, G. H. P., presided at the ninety-ninth annual Convocation, held in the city of

New Haven, on May 11th, 1897. His address embraced a record of visitations made, dispensations granted, decisions given, tributes to the departed, and brief references to the centennial and other matters.

The Grand High Priest on official visitation is very pronounced:

"I am decidedly of the opinion that all of our Chapters should be visited once in each year. It would place the subordinate Chapters in closer sympathy with the Grand Chapter, and makes us all feel and act as though we were *indeed* all of one brotherhood. It would give opportunity for advice and correction, and stimulate that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree."

He details a record of six visits made by himself during the year, and his officers were proportionately vigilant. The Deputy Grand High Priest visited two, but says:

"For various reasons my most anxious desire to see further light as radiated by the various Chapters assigned me, met with limited gratification. I shall not seek to account for this, but only lament as I think how much these Companions have lost. It is somewhat sad to think that they will never know their sad bereavement. It has been suggested that there is sufficient authority given to justify a visiting officer in inspecting at any time, which is no doubt true, and there are possible conditions into which a Chapter might come when an uninvited visit for encouragement or harmonizing would be compulsory, but in a time of general harmony and unity of ritual such a visit would be taken unkindly."

The Companion is now Grand High Priest, and great things may reasonably be expected. The Grand King visited once and the Grand Scribe on several occasions.

So far as can be gleaned the practice is to assign a number of Chapters to each of these officers who then wait for the Chapters to invite them. It is the etiquette of the Nutmeg State. To visit without such invitation would be *infra dig.* The Grand Scribe in his report hits the situation exactly, although from the unusual position in which he places himself there is distinct hesitancy in delivering himself of this straightforward opinion:

"I have kept myself within what appeared to be the rule; but it has seemed to me that if these official visits and inspections are to be of any use to this Grand Chapter (and if of no use the expense attending them is useless), every Chapter should be visited and inspected. It is very pleasant to meet the officers and members, especially when it is done as their guest, and the larger Chapters, which are pretty certain to see that an invitation is extended, can easily arrange for such a visit. But many of our Chapters are small, do not have a large amount of work, and are maintaining the altar fire of capitular Masonry under difficulty; they may many times feel that they can not extend an invitation to the official visitor. Much help and encouragement might come to them, however, from such a visit. Again there may be other reasons why the Chapters which do not extend an invitation are the very ones which need it most.

You will, I trust, not charge me with arrogance if I say that it is my belief that every Chapter within this Grand Jurisdiction should be visited and thoroughly inspected once each year, with or without invitation. It is only in this way that this Grand Chapter can know the exact condition of things in the Chapters under its jurisdiction, and the several Chapters kept in touch with their superior and the whole system maintained in a vigorous and healthy condition."

The Grand High Priest, referring to the interesting epoch which the Grand Chapter will soon celebrate, says:

"The constitution of the General Grand Chapter was adopted at a convention held in the city of Hartford, Connecticut, commencing January 24, 1798, and continuing four days. Nine Chapters in all were represented, of which number Connecticut had three. We do not to-day represent one-third of the Royal Craft. Time has wrought many changes in this land of ours, but our Grand Chapter is loyal and true to the principles embodied in the constitution of 1798, and we ought to feel highly honored to bear some humble part in the celebration."

There was nothing to trouble the Grievances Committe and the members thereof thus reported:

"Your Committee on Grievances for several years have offered a stereotyped report, and as the printer still has the plate in his possession, we again report 'Universal peace and harmony prevails among the Craft."

The petitioners for a new Chapter to be located at West Haven, were successful, the Committee on Charters acceding to the request.

Comp. John H. Barlow, one of the veterans, presented the report on Correspondence which is replete with good things. To Canada he gives generously of his space quoting freely from the Grand Z's address and our own report. Approval from such a source is indeed encouraging and we hereby acknowledge his kind words with thanks.

J. F. Stidham, New Britain, Grand High Priest.
James McCormick, Hartford, Grand Secretary.

Delaware.

Chapters, 4 ; Members, 624.

M. E. Comp. Virginius V. Harrison, Grand High Priest, and accomplished reviewer of Correspondence, presided over the twenty-ninth annual Convocation held in the city of Wilmington on the 20th January, 1897. There was a most creditable attendance recorded, especially of Companions representing other Grand Chapters, but when it is observed that of the 46 Grand Representatives 41 own their abiding place as Wilmington, it is not to be wondered at. Canada's envoy, although a Wilmingtonian, is not included.

The Grand High Priest apparently had little to engage his august attention during the twelve months, and addressed the Companions with appropriate brevity. Notwithstanding that his charge numbered but four Chapters and that all are credited with work, yet he has something to say that others might lay to heart with advantage :

" What then is the cause of the indifference and lack of interest on the part of the Companions of the Chapters? Permit me to suggest one, and to my mind, a prime cause—incompetency of officers. Show me a Chapter officered by active, interested officers, who are thoroughly familiar with their work, and recite it as though their heart was in it, and you will find it well attended by interested Companions and prosperous in a financial sense.

On the other hand, take one with a retinue of incompetent officers, who stumble and blunder through their work, oftimes coming to a dead stop, because they had forgotton, or never knew, their parts, and you will find one with poor attendance, finances low, and an air of general demoralization prevailing.

That this latter condition does exist among our Chapters at times can not be denied, and the remedy is, in my judgment, qualification before installation."

He is not an enthusiast on the Grand Representative system, but fails to advance any substantial reason why it should be abolished. During the year he made two appointments and ratified three made by other Grand Chapters. This he regards as "labor entailed without return." Now it does not appear from his address that he did anything else, except procuring copies of the General Grand Chapter ritual, the making a feature of that little job and dubbing it a "labour" is hardly fair. Moreover, as "nothing has occurred to disturb the harmony and friendly relations existing between this and other Grand Chapters," it is difficult to see what he could expect from the Representatives. They no doubt bear their honors and carried their "titles" with a dignity that did credit to Delaware, and that is all that could reasonably be demanded of a diplomatist in piping times of peace. Here is how the G. H. P. puts it:

"I followed this course because the Grand Chapter had established the custom, not because it met my approval. I have no sympathy with the system, to go on year after year, and appoint and receive appointments that only confer titles, entailing labor without return, is to my mind simply nonsense. The only defense its advocates present for its continuance is, 'that while it does no good it does no harm.' Then why continue a system that does no good.

Now, while I rofrain from making any recommendation in the matter, I leave it to your judgment to continue or abolish a system that is deemed by many useless and unnecessary."

Yet he bears the ambassadorial responsibility of South Carolina and delivers himself of the above without a blush.

That the committee to whom the Grand High Priest's address was referred was not altogether with the above sentiment, is gathered from the report:

"That in regard to the appointment of Grand Representatives near this and other Grand Chapters, we would say that while the custom is not fraught with any great good probably, yet we would advise that it be continued until the custom of such appointment is less general among the various jurisdictions than at present exists."

The following resolution was submitted and defeated:

"That the High Priests of the several subordinate Chapters be instructed to cause all candidates to perfect themselves in the essentials of the preceding degrees before being advanced to the degree of Royal Arch Mason."

While this one prevailed:

"That the Committee on Work formulate a plan whereby the several High Priests of Chapters of this jurisdiction may instruct the candidates in the preceding degrees before advancement to the next higher degree, and report at the next annual Convocation,"

Comp. Harrison was not only retained in the chief office but he was the recipient of a Past Grand High Priest's jewel, and "by request" continues to superintend the Correspondence. In the latter capacity he is "right there."

Under Alabama, he says:

"We think that it is unjust to charge a fee, either for affiliation or dimit, a member having paid all his indebtedness to his Chapter and desiring to withdraw, should be permitted to do so without *fee*, and on the other hand a Royal Arch Mason, non-affiliated, desiring to connect himself with a Chapter, should if found worthy, be permitted to do so without fee."

That a Companion should have to pay in order to get out, is humorous as well as novel. Comp. Harrison however, on the question of a fee for affiliation, will find many supporters.

To Comp. Barlow, of Connecticut, who says a word for the Past Master because of old association, he remarks:

"It does convey a useful lesson, Companion, when conferred upon the proper person under proper conditions, and at the proper time, but we still hold that it is foreign to Capitular Masonry, and should be eliminated from the system."

And to him of Oregon:

"To the Worshipful Master-elect of a Blue Lodge the degree is most appropriate, but to the Capitular system of Masonry, its forms and ceremonies are as foreign as anything could well be. We would hail with delight the time when it is taken out and placed where it belongs, to be conferred only upon those who by meritorious labor had earned it."

He is opposed to the Chapter officer who reads to the candidate. We have not made his acquaintance yet; when we do we shall be decidedly of Comp. Harrison's mind:

"To enter a Masonic body in Delaware, and observe an officer with a book in his hand delivering a charge, is to conclude that the officer is not 'up to the mark' in his duty. It always did appear most ridiculous to us for an officer to confer an entire degree from memory, and then resort to a book from which to read a little charge to the candidate."

We are entirely with him in his comment on a wail from the Kansas ruler:

"Wonder what the M. E. meant by 'ways and means' to counteract the influences of other societies? Would we have brethren go out in the highways and by-ways and solicit the members as others do? Or offer a premium as an inducement to counteract the aforesaid influences? We trust not. Let our organization stand or fall on its merits. It has stood the test of ages and gains in strength and importance with each succeeding year. We do not think it necessary at this late day to combat societies that, like mushrooms, rise and perish in a night."

While to the Texas reviewer he pertinently says:

"Let us not depart from old landmarks and reason these things out on 'business principles.' Don't interject too much modernism into an ancient fraternity like we boast of."

And again to the learned one of Maine:

"We cannot understand why our ceremonies should be paraded in public, it savors too much of institutions of small calibre who are bidding for public favor. This is unnecessary with our institution."

So we might go on culling the good things from Comp. Harrison's enjoyable review if our limit were not prescribed. We trust his next report will include Canada.

Virginius V. Harrison, Wilmington, Grand High Priest.

James H. Price, Wilmington, Grand Secretary.

District of Columbia.

Chapters, 10; members, 2,191.

It does not appear that the usual musical honors accompanied the opening ceremonies at the thirtieth annual Convocation, held at Washington, on 9th December, 1896, yet all was harmony. Grand High Priest DeMoll treated his Companions to an address that absorbs nearly fourteen pages of the proceedings but containing little of interest to those without the pale of the jurisdiction.

His year was one of activity, making frequent visits and replying to numerous invitations. He gave two unimportant decisions both of which were endorsed.

The Grievances Committee had nothing to occasion a meeting, and that on "Work" reported that there were no differences between the Chapters and the Grand Lecturer.

It was observed with regret that illness prevented the attendance of Comp. Singleton, whose report on Correspondence, however, had been duly prepared. Canada is not in it for the same reason that it is not in many other reports of this period.

To the Colorado Grand High Priest, who deplores the tendency to climb away from the Chapter, he pointedly says:

"We presume he alludes to that class who wish to go into the Commandery, where they can be conspicuous in parades or processions in public to display the uniforms and *feathers*. That such would be of much benefit to the Chapters is very questionable, and we can only apply to them the words:

"Behold the child, by nature's kindly law,
Pleased with a rattle, tickled with a straw."

Let them go on and help to swell the ranks of the Commandery; there they are useful."

He thus makes clear under Indiana how he acquired the comprehensive knowledge for which his Companions of the guild have such profound respect.

"Now, to explain, we do not plead guilty to such a good memory; but we learned when a very young man, from one who was a well-read person, 'That next to knowing everything

was to know where to find it,' and such we are in some measure. Fifty-six years in pursuit of Masonic Light, we have formulated certain lines of search, and there is the Masonic secret. Born and raised in a Masonic family, father and uncles all Masons, we learned Masonry as a farmer's son becomes a farmer, *ab initio*, as it were."

On the perpetual jurisdiction question he has this to say under Louisiana:

"We have never surrendered the *ancient Masonic right*, which is claimed by Masons everywhere in the world except in some of the States, that we are the judges of what material we wish for our Temple. We are fully aware of the modern claims set up in certain jurisdictions, that because a profane happens to be born in a certain locality, that locality has everlasting claim to his personality 'forever and a day.' This question was fully discussed by our late Brother, Benj. B. French, in the Grand Lodge Proceedings, and, in a true spirit of comity, our Grand Lodge adopted an amendment to its Constitution to meet the views of other jurisdictions, and, after several succeeding amendments, we now have a perfect rule for our government; but the Masons of the District of Columbia have never surrendered, nor will they ever surrender, the immemorial proscriptive and Masonic right in regard to the selection of material."

Comp. Hodson, of Oregon. holding that an objection by a Companion to the advancement of a candidate for the Royal Arch degree "should have the same force and be treated with the same respect as a black ball." This is how Comp. Simpleton replies:

"Now, just here is where we differ, worthy Companion. You have taken the legal side, while we as an old Mason lean to the humanitarian side. We confess to a great *weakness* towards our brethern in the flesh. We would not allow the bitter animosities, which so often show themselves among men, to prevent justice being done to our brethren. The silent black ball in the ballot box must stand during the constitutional period; but when a candidate has received one degree in the rite, we hold that justice demands a reason why the body shall not confer on him the remaining degrees promised when he was elected. He has the Masonic right of justice; and the Chapter has a right to know why their work is obstructed. We are glad to find that in many jurisdictions our ideas have been adopted. In this jurisdiction we find the rule works admirably, and under no consideration would we return to the former practice."

With Comp. Whyte, of Quebec, he has been engaged in controversy as to the respective claims to

precedence of "High Priest" and "Zerubbabel." In our previous report we gave Comp. Whyte's very lucid contention in favor of the latter. Comp. Singleton's reply is equally interesting, and we regret that limited space prevents our giving it in extenso. He quotes from a number of authorities in support of his contention, and nails his colors to the mast thus:

"Now, without going any further into this interesting history, we affirm that there never was a King of Judea, properly so called, after the death of Zedekiah, who was carried captive to Babylon, until Herod the Great, but that from the return of the Jews to Jerusalem they were governed by High Priests only, after Zerubbabel returned to Babylon, and Nehemiah took his place.

The American system of the Royal Arch is strictly correct in making the High Priest the first officer, but is incorrect historically in designating the second officer "King." The English system is perhaps correct in giving the name 'Zerubbabel' to one of its officers, but he should be subordinate in *religious* affairs, and not *first*. We think that in our last report the reasons for such were clearly set forth, viz: that in all *religious* rites the "Arch-Magus" was the only person charged with the duty of communicating the 'higher mysteries' to the postulants who were to receive them."

Charles H. Smith, Washington, Grand High Priest.
Arvine W. Johnston, Washington, Grand Secretary.

Florida.

Chapters, 16; Members, 629.

M. E. Comp. Jewell, G. H. P., presided over the fifty-first annual Convocation, held at Jacksonville, May 11, 1897. He is a believer in visitation of Grand officers, and during his term showed a good example:

"I feel it a duty to urge upon this Grand Chapter the great importance of a closer connection with the subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction by personal visitation to them from time to time, either by the Grand High Priest himself or assisted by other Grand officers."

He devotes some paragraphs to the appointments of Grand Representatives, and while on this matter it is observed that the error in the list noted in last report has not been rectified. This may possibly be owing to the regrettable illness of Grand Secretary McLean

which is referred to at the close of the G. H. P.'s address.

He issued dispensations to form Chapters at Inverness and Lake City. The former received its charter. That granted to Companions at Apalachicola was returned "with information that it was useless for them to try and get a Chapter started at that place." This should be a lesson for future similar cases.

The Ritual Committee reported suggested changes in the work of the three intermediate degrees, which were adopted.

There were no questions for decision and not a single case of grievance, and "complete harmony" was therefore reported.

The Grand High Priest having recommended a small appropriation towards the expense of visitation of Grand officers, the Finance Committee reported:

"Owing to the deficiency in receipts this year, we do not feel authorized to recommend the appropriation of any amount for travelling expenses to exemplify the Grand Chapter work, as recommended by the M. E. G. H. P."

The mileage and per diem allowances were, however, approved. There is no report on Correspondence.

Warren Tyler, Bartow, Grand High Priest.
W. A. McLean, Jacksonville, Grand Secretary.

Georgia.

Chapters, 102; Members, 3,044.

The seventy-fifth annual Convocation opened in the city of Macon, on the 26th April, 1897, a net gain of six Chapters testifying to the increased zeal in this jurisdiction during the year.

In the previous February death removed the talented and beloved Grand Secretary, Andrew Martin Wolihin, and eloquent tributes to his memory are coutributed by the Grand High Priest, the Committee on Memorials and the Correspondence chairman.

The deceased Companion, who was a Past Grand High Priest, and also Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge and Grand Recorder of the Grand Council, was a Mason of deep research and exalted attainments. Of him the Grand High Priest writes:

"His life's energies were given to Masonry, he bestowed upon our noble institution his might, and his time, and directed all his resources of body and mind for its elevation and advancement.

To every duty assigned him, he brought the most thorough preparation. He made himself master of every Masonic principle, every detail and every accessible fact pertaining to the subject.

It was only after the fullest investigation and the most careful deliberation, that he reached important conclusions, and then, he was as unyielding in his convictions of right as he was zealous in their defense.

He devoted to Masonry, profounder study and more thorough investigation than to any other subject that had ever challenged his attention, and no doubt that the intense mental strain, long continued, and the excessive labor, which characterized the part he bore in the conscientious discharge of his duties, sapped his vital forces, destroyed his capacity for healthful repose, and left him an easy prey to insidious and fatal disease.

Companion Andrew M. Wolihin's private life was without a stain. From boyhood his was a career of religious fervor; his faith was implicit and sublime. He knew his God, and no lingering doubt disturbed his belief in the lofty teaching of our institution, 'a future state of eternal bliss.'"

Truly Georgia has suffered a bereavement. His son was his assistant, and very appropriately Grand Chapter confirmed his appointment as successor to his lamented father.

The Grand High Priest's address indicates that he was not weary in well doing. His observations gathered from frequent visits to the Chapters urge him to recommend the appointment of deputies in order that the work may be the better overseen:

"I deem it highly essential that our Chapters be more enlightened in the work of the several degrees, for the knowledge of the same will produce greater enthusiasm and love for Capitular Masonry, and it will not be considered, as it is by many, only a stepping stone for advancement. This will not curtail the work of your presiding officer, for he can still exercise his function and discharge his official duties as he did

heretofore, make as many visits as possible, and a visit of deputies will aid those Chapters which he cannot reach."

Among the decisions is the following which was approved by the Jurisprudence Committee:

"Query. A brother applying for degrees, lost his forefinger of his right hand, leaving the main knuckle on this hand and has lost one joint of his right thumb and a part of the knuckle of the next joint. Can he receive the degrees?

Answer. Masons are not a body of soldiers, have no uniform rank, and a Mason, although somewhat deformed, may perhaps be a better Mason, stricter in carrying out properly his obligations, than one who is not deformed; but, if the applicant is so maimed and deformed that he could not give properly the signs or grip, and if occasion requires, that he could not teach or be taught, then he cannot conform literally to all the requirements of the several degrees, and therefore cannot be accepted."

He resuscitated the Chapters at Dawson and Quitman, issued dispensations for the institution of new Chapters at Decatur, Chickamauga and Dallas, and constituted those at Moultrie and Pelham, a noble year's work, especially as he states the net gain in membership is 600.

He bestows merited praise on the labors of the Correspondent, Comp. W. S. Ramsay, gives a fraternal lift to the "Masonic Herald," and closes a capital address with an eloquent peroration on the divine attribute of truth as exemplified in the teachings and precepts of the Royal Craft.

Mount Zion Chapter, Atlanta, celebrated its jubilee on June 30th, and an invitation was sent to Grand Chapter, "a barbecue dinner" being one of the features for the delectation of the visitors.

The Jurisprudence Committee reported adversely on a resolution submitted by a Companion and having for its object the rescinding of an edict providing for dependent membership.

The Finance Committee report is again an interesting document. The Treasurer received $4.793.27 and paid out $4,767.75, leaving a balance now in hand of $25.52.

There was nothing there, however, to deter the good Companions as recommendations were favored

for appropriations for delegates to General Grand Chapter $250, Grand High Priest $250, Correspondence $100, Sentinel $25, etc., and as the Companions attending Grand Chapter had to be satisfied in the matter of the "pay roll":

"We further recommend that the Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary be authorized to borrow as much money during recess of this Grand Chapter, and upon the best terms possible, as may be needed to cover expenses."

Comp. Ramsay's report opens with a regret that Canada is among the laggards. Yet we find our proceedings for '95 reviewed in its proper place. He is laudatory of the Grand Z., of Canada's condition, and has a good word for the Correspondent.

"The address of Most Excellent Grand Z. is convincing proof that the interests of Capitular Masonry in that jurisdiction have not suffered in his hands. He is ready with words of praise where merited, and as fully ready to condemn every neglect of duty.

The conditions and prospects of each Chapter is fully set forth in the exhaustive statistical reports of the Superintendents, which reports occupy a large place in the printed proceedings. The condition of Capitular Masonry in that jurisdiction is encouraging. Everything betokens health and prosperity."

Georgia possesses an excellent reviewer in Comp. Ramsay. Would that we could present some further samples of the work.

Charles Wessolowsky, Albany, Grand High Priest.
William A. Wolihun, Macon, Grand Secretary.

Illinois.

Chapters, 186; Members, 16,619.

With appropriate prayer and some charming musical selections by "The Lexington Quartette," the forty-seventh annual Convocation was opened in the Chicago Masonic Temple on the 29th October, 1896.

M. E. Comp. Geo. M. Moulton, Grand High Priest, started out on his address with something that threatened to counteract the soothing influence of the quartette, but like the ponderous thunder cloud of a summer day it quickly gave place to hope and sunshine.

"The glow of promise which last year began to shed a radiant light, and for a time gave hope of a renewed era of prosperity, became dimmed by the adverse influences of doubt, distrust and uncertainty. The brains of capital became clouded with apprehension, resulting in restriction of legitimate lines of credit, impeding the wheels of trade and manufactures, and enforcing paralysis on the willing hand of labor. The quadrennial agitation attending the adjustment of national issues and declarations of principles and policy, with the uncertainty always existing as to the result, has operated in a measure also to postpone the return of confidence in the future, and the dawn of renewed prosperity in this great nation."

How pleasant then after the above must have been the succeeding words which were followed by a plainly expressed record of his official acts:

"Yet notwithstanding these deterrent factors, a substantial and healthy growth has been acquired in membership by this Grand Chapter. Generally speaking, about one-half of the subordinate Chapters have merely held their own. Of the remaining Chapters some have established net losses, but the majority have made liberal gains, showing a net increase in membership this year over last, of 285. Moreover, what is most to be desired, peace and harmony, abide within the veils. No discordant element obtrudes itself to mar the fraternal good and happiness of the craft."

Ill health compelled him to hand over for a period the custody of the Craft to his deputy who undertook the charge from June 21 to March 1, when the G. H. P. resumed duty. He was unable owing to "demands upon his time" to pay more than one official visit during his term. The Companions however are consoled by the assurance that he is "a firm believer in the beneficial results of frequent visits from Grand officers." Here are a few of his decisions:

"Non-affiliation with a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons disqualifies a Past High Priest from installing Chapter officers."

"No Chapter shall confer any degree, or admit to membership, until the prescribed fee shall have been paid to the proper officer, nor shall any written or verbal promise to pay the same be received in lieu thereof, nor shall any portion of the fee be remitted either directly or indirectly."

"It is lawful to open and transact the business of a Chapter in the absence of the written charter. The legality of a Chapter and its acts depends on the granting and continuance of its charter by Grand Chapter, and not upon the existence or presence of the written evidence thereof."

"A quorum of a Chapter to confer degrees is nine Royal Arch Masons, but for the transaction of business nine members of the Chapter must be present, of whom the Tyler may count as one. Whether one or more official chairs are vacant is immaterial, so the ritual is properly communicated."

"No jurisdictional requirements attach to a petition for affiliation with a Chapter."

The Grand officers, as is customary in this jurisdiction, were allotted to the several districts. Each of them report to the Grand High Priest. The Grand King was not called upon "officially" and concludes that "peace and harmony prevails," but "on invitation" he visited a number of the Chapters and had a good time.

The next in rank is of the opinion that a number of the Chapters need the services of the Grand Lecturer and adds that many of them possess but one Companion who fully understands the ritual. He does not intimate that he honored any of them with a visit.

The Grand Principal Sojourner, from information received, is of the opinion that the Craft is fairly prosperous. He too omitted visiting.

The officers for the next five districts report briefly and much to the same effect, the ninth although having more to say, reports "I have not made, nor been asked to make, a single official visit."

The Grand Lecturers however were active but their services were in demand by Chapters which could afford to pay the expenses. One of these officers says:

"During the past year several instances have come to my notice where Chapters desired the services of a Grand Lecturer, but felt they were not able to defray expenses, and that it was humiliating to them to acknowledge that they were too poor, and I earnestly hope that steps may be taken whereby Chapters desiring the services of a Grand Lecturer can obtain them without the necessity of pleading poverty."

The beneficial results of visitation by Grand Officers, in which the Grand High Priest declared a belief, are not likely to be witnessed until the custom of waiting for an invitation has been relegated to obscurity.

The Companions at Momence petitioned for a dispensation for a new Chapter, and their request was acceded to.

The Supreme Grand Chapter of Victoria was recognized and welcomed into the family of Grand Chapters.

A sum of two hundred dollars was voted to relieve the widow of Past Grand High Priest E. M. Clarke, and one thousand dollars to the Illinois Masonic Orphans' Home.

M. E. Comp. N. B. Maxey, Grand High Priest of Indian Territory, was announced as a visitor and received a cordial welcome.

The following was adopted:

Resolved. That the Most Excellent Grand High Priest be requested to call a meeting of the Grand Lecturers, hereafter to be appointed, to meet with him, at some place to be designated by the M. E. Grand High Priest, on or before the 15th day of December, 1896, for the purpose that the Grand Lecturers may become uniform in the reading of the Black Hawk, also to adopt a uniform system of the floor work in the several degrees of Capitular Masonry.

We are not acquainted with "Black Hawk," but the Fenimore Cooper flavor about the thing creates a suspicion that the officers are to perfect themselves in the use of the scalping knife.

Canada for 1895 is generously treated in Comp. J. M. Pearson's enjoyable report on Correspondence. He highly extols the Grand Z's work and quotes frequently from his address. To the fresh reporter he extends a fraternal welcome:

"Now we have carefully read this report and fail to find anything 'iconoclastic.' We also confess a liking for things 'fust' and tender and green, and as we write our eyes and mind are delighted with the view and thought. The asparagus is gone, but the peas and cauliflower and cabbage are with us, and the strawberries will linger until pushed out by the raspberries, and the whole succession, provided by the 'Great I Am' will come to refresh our bodies, and our souls, too, if we rightly remember the Giver. But this report is not especially green or tender. It is the reverse toward the memory of our old friend the 'Past Master.'

Dear Comp B., haven't you forgotten that '*De mortuis nihil nisi bonum*'? '*Requiescat in pace*' should now be the word. The little humorous phrases of Comp. B. can't be quoted but they are an 'Attic salt' to the reader. Illinois is generously treated, and elsewhere we have expressed our joy at the swift turn in Australia. We hope to read more of his reports.

The report for 1897 is with us in advance of the proceedings, thanks to Comp. Pearson, and is an entertaining review of forty-seven Grand jurisdictions, six of them for two years. Canada for 1896 is included and as before, is not lightly passed by.

"The financial condition is excellent—$20.000, safely invested, and $2,325 in cash. We call attention to this especially because it represents the long accumulation of funds economically administered."

"A small *per capita* tax, on a membership about one-third of ours, has given them about the same net results as ours. They have never turned a deaf ear to calls of charity, but they economize and discriminate and safely invest."

Canada lacks the "pay roll" Comp. P., which may account for the "excellent condition."

"He was misled when he says the 'compensation of the Grand High Priest was increased from four hundred to six hundred dollars.' We didn't do it."

Well we won't miss it so much as the G. H. P. and if he is content so are we. It won't occur again anyway and how it occurred then we cannot conceive.

"This able report reviewed forty-six jurisdictions, fourteen of them for two years, and covers CCXVII pages. A few years ago this writer was rallied for not signing his report, but Comp. Bennett signs twice."

Well you see, on this occasion we had to furnish a double allowance and by signing "at both ends" it enabled the weary reviewer to direct without fear of error, opinions of the compiler, unuttered but deep and emphatic.

This is from his admirable conclusion.

"The ancients set up for a foundation, temperance, prudence, fortitude and justice. We have found, by the help of our Great Light, that Faith, Hope and Charity must be added, and, as the result of this, we are compelled to practice *brotherly love,* and afford *relief*, and search for *truth.* The exercise of these virtues will produce real growth, growth of the soul, growth of character.

Let us continue in these virtues until we realize that our 'field is the world,' and that brother includes every child of our common Father."

Fred C. Winslow, Jacksonville, Grand High Priest.
Gil. W. Barnard, Chicago, Grand Secretary.

Indiana.

Chapters, 90; members, 6,459.

On the 21st October, 1896, the fifty-first annual Convocation presided over by the M. E. Henry W. Mordhurst, was opened in the Masonic Temple at Indianapolis.

The Grand High Priest's address is just what might be expected from a competent and conscientious ruler. It is a most interesting document disclosing the official actions of one, who while entrusted with power did his duty fearlessly.

He refused assent to Chapter by-laws which provided "that a member could not vote or hold office if in arrears for more than one year's dues" and in another case "until he had signed the by-laws."

Dispensations were issued to institute Chapters at Decatur, Versailles and Tipton.

Agreeably to the edict of Grand Chapter made and provided, the G. H. P. devoted some of his attention to delinquent Chapters, with the result that two charters were arrested and a third was only saved by a promise of immediate amendment. He recommended

"That a regulation be adopted requiring the Grand High Priest to suspend the functions of any Chapter failing to file its annual report by March 1st, such suspension to remain in effect until the law relating to reports is fulfilled."

Similar methods might be adopted in other jurisdictions with profit.

Several cases of invasion of jurisdiction by Chapters were presented to him for adjustment.

He issued a circular strongly condemnatory of the practice of displaying the Royal Arch paraphernalia in public. The incident should commend itself to those who love to criticise Nova Scotia's annual church parade in R. A. aprons.

Here is something, which, to say the least, is startling:

"The behaviour of Companions during the conferring of the Royal Arch degree continues to be a source of vexation and mortification to the thinking Mason. It is a grievous wrong

that the thoughtless Companion does Masonry by indulging his levity in so solemn a ceremony as the exalting of a brother to a degree that is frequently and properly denominated the Holy Royal Arch. High Priests permit practices that have been denounced time and again by Grand High Priests and Grand Chapters, yet it seems almost impossible to eradicate this glaring evil. Words are without effect and edicts appear to be harmless. There is consequently but one other hope, and that is, that some day some Grand High Priest will in righteous indignation arrest the charters of a number of the Chapters of Indiana. It seems to me that nothing short of this will ever bring about the desired reform."

Once upon a time we possessed a degree that furnished occasion for men to become boys again, but the Royal Arch has never been desecrated, to our knowledge.

Indiana apparently is fruitful of surprises. The Grand High Priest learned that a Chapter was practicing a work foreign to that authorized, and he promptly sought out the offending Companions, and witnessed a ceremony that demanded an immediate personal investigation. He learned:

"That in years past some High Priest, with his obligation resting lightly upon him, discarded the lawful work, bought numerous copies of a printed ritual and taught the same to his officers, so that in this manner the new work had been handed down to the present time.

Being satisfied that the present High Priest was innocent of wrong intent, that he knew nothing of a different ritual, and receiving from him his Masonic word that the authorized work would be at once re-established in his Chapter, I did not feel justified in inflicting any penalty, but I there and then determined that I should fully report the case to the Grand Chapter so that if there be any other High Priest who, without the fear of the law, has been guilty of changing the ritual, he might more fully realize the serious penalties prescribed for such an offense.

He did not rest at this. The enquiry was pursued:

I became possessed of information showing that the Hacker work in printed form was being numerously sold in parts of the State by certain Chapter officers.

In the hope that the identity of the unprincipled person guilty of furnishing the ritual for such a purpose might be fully established, I did not, last year, report the matter to Grand Chapter.

I regret to say that, owing to a certain amount of publicity used in my investigations, and which it was impossible to avoid, I have been baffled in my efforts to fully locate the contemptible

individual. I have a mass of correspondence bearing upon the subject, which I shall turn over to my successor in the hope that some day the missing link in the chain of evidence now on hand be found, and the punishment so justly due, measured out with unstinted hands.

The book is now no longer sold in open market, but is furnished surreptitiously to subscribers only.

A spurious ritual "sold in parts of the State by certain Chapter officers." Alarming condition of affairs truly. One can now readily understand the ease with which, in a field of such possibilities a "virtual" could be called upon to make an "actual." Nevertheless, in spite of adverse conditions, the Royal Craft is prosperous and its influence for good was never greater.

Let it be our aim to see to it that the present high standard shall not be lowered. Let us endeavor to curb the desire for mere work and scrutinize more closely our petitioners, ever bearing in mind that the making of Masons is, after all, but an incident and not the great aim of the Institution.

King Solomon's Chapter, No. 4, through its High Priest, petitioned to have its number changed to "one" as an old charter issued by General Grand Chapter in September, 1838, "to King Solomon's Chapter, No. 1, in the borough of Richmond, County of Wayne, in the State of Indiana," had recently been unearthed.

This claim to seniority was entrusted to a committee of three to investigate, and the result of their research will be made known at the next Grand Chapter meeting.

Three cases of unpleasantness in Chapters involving monies paid to secretaries engaged the attention of the Grievances Committee.

The report of the Committee on Claims, in view of the large expenditure for printing, recommended that the Correspondence report hereafter be "limited to one hundred printed pages," and every reader of Comp. Long's splendid reports will deplore the acquiescence which Grand Chapter accorded to this deplorable phase of economy.

The very next committee to report was that on "Pay Roll," the total amount of which reached nearly $1200, "which was concurred in," of course.

The Jurisprudence Committee having in view the recommendation of the Grand High Priest, submitted the following "edict" which was adopted.

"It is the imperative duty of the Grand High Priest, to at once suspend the functions of any Chapter failing to make its annual report within thirty days after the time prescribed by law. Such suspension to continue until such report is filed with the Grand Secretary."

Similar prompt measures were recommended in the case of Chapters using an unauthorized ritual.

Historian Long submitted a report the subject of which is his history of Grand Chapter from 1819 to 1845, presented the previous year, and explaining that he had taken no further steps dealing with later periods beyond collecting material. He pointed to certain data in the published history and emphasizes the fact that but for his researches the Craft Capitular in Indiana would have remained in darkest ignorance of most important occurrences in its pioneer existence.

The outgoing Grand High Priest was presented with a jewel by Comp. Thomas R. Marshall on behalf of his brother Grand officers, and he did so with expressions so touching and eloquent, that the recipient must value them above any trinket. Canada's representative did nobly:

"I know of no man who has loved her institutions better, nor given to her cause a purer, cleaner and more upright administration. You pass from power to-day, but you do not pass from the hearts and the affections of the men who placed you there. You will abide with them while the memory of your good works shall last. It is more than a perfunctory duty which I perform upon this occasion; it is a heart-felt pleasure. For I remember that for many years you have been my counsellor and friend, and in sunshine and in storm, amid the cloud-tempest and the battle-din of life, you have always been staunch and true and loyal. I desire to place on record, therefore, the appreciation of your Companions in office, and my personal appreciation of your good life and your good works. I can only hope and believe that to the end you will be to us all what you have have been in the past—friend, brother, companion in the true Masonic sense of these terms. It is, therefore, the crowning joy of my official career with you to present you, upon behalf of your Companions in office, with this, the Past Grand High Priest's jewel; and as Holiness to the Lord was engraven upon the coronet which surrounded his brow, may Holiness to the

Lord be engraven upon your future life and conduct, and may you be, what you have always been, the same sincere, faithful, upright and unassuming friend."

Companion Thomas B. Long, Past Grand High Priest and historiographer to the Grand Chapter, is now as heretofore the painstaking reviewer of the doings of other jurisdictions. He lingers with Canada, for 1895, to the extent of four pages.

"The address of Grand Z., Most Excellent J. Ross Robertson was an able and exhaustive paper, in which full justice was given to every subject touched upon. The reviewer would be glad to show by many extracts from it that the author's fears that he could not make the document interesting to his hearers were wholly without foundation, were it not that the necessity to economize space is earnestly appreciated at the very outset of a report that must cover the transactions of more than fifty Grand Chapters.

The writer has more than once commended the splendid system of district inspection in operation in the Grand Jurisdiction of Canada, which, indeed, furnishes a model for the Capitular world.

The reports of the General Grand Superintendents are always carefully examined by the Grand Chapter Committee to whom they are annually referred. They handled some of these reports without gloves."

He greets us patronizingly as becometh a veteran in the corps and we gratefully appreciate a notice from so lofty a pedestal:

"Companion George J. Bennett, a new hand, has charge of the report on Correspondenoe this year, and a creditable review is the result, even though he writes as the successor of the veteran Henry Robertson."

Now that is real nice, and if he had only been near to see "the new hand" blush, the chances are our curly locks would have been patted encouragingly.

"Companion Montgomery, of Minnesota says of him: 'He starts out as one who is ready to hold his own in argument, and we expect to see the fur fly on the slightest provocation. The first outbreak is in the review of Indiana, in a sharp criticism of Companion Long on the Past Master's degree.'"

If Comp. Montgomery could have realized how deeply that "sharp criticism" of his was going to penetrate he might have hesitated. For a new hand to

presume so far was too much. He cannot well get at Comp. Montgomery, so the youngster catches it. Comp. L. quotes us and says:

"Well, in Indiana and other States of the Union we do not have two degrees upon the same subject, and consequently can not make a selection of one of such two as appropriate to the Symbolic system, and eliminate the other from the curriculum of Capitular Masonry. In the United States both of these departments of Masonry are in possession of the degree of Past Master, and mutually concede to each other the right to such possession. Therefore it is not necessary for us to take Comp. Bennett's sage advice and make two of the one, and call one of the two 'Installed Master,' and then throw the other half of the one over among the rubbish."

Now we have perused the above more than once, and for the life of us cannot reconcile the contentions. In a previous report Comp. L. said:

"The true procedure of conferring it as a prerequisite to the installation of a Master elect who has never received it in a Chapter Lodge is to have an emergent Lodge congregated by three actual Past Masters, and if neither of these can confer it, then request some virtual Past Master to perform the ceremony. All present under such circumstances are in lawful possession of the degree."

How then, in the name of all that's consistent, can these conflicting statements be made to fit? If Comp. L. had charitably paused to enlighten the unexpanded intellect of a new hand instead of giving rein to his feelings, how grateful we would all be. He should have remembered that there was abundant reason at that particular period why the "stupendous subject" should have been thrust to the front. He brought it there himself in a prominent and peculiar manner, and we had the hardihood to remark upon it. Moreover it seems to have escaped him that we are far from being alone in our opinions:

"The truth is, that Companion B. rises from the very indifferent task accomplished in Canada, with the feeling of triumph that would follow the hero of some great victory of arms; yet his Io! TRIUMPHE! his *Gaudeaumes igiter*. will be regarded by the Masonic world as applied to a very insufficient subject."

Won't our Minnesota Companion regret his indiscreet remark when he catches sight of that *brutem*

fulmen. Of course if "the Masonic world" is concentrated in one reviewer, and the suspicion grows that somebody is of that opinion, then everything is as clear as daylight. Now one would suppose that having delivered himself of the above, our erudite Companion would have heaved a delightful sigh of satisfaction and settled down to business. Not so. The new hand must be made to feel that he has been "monkeying with a buzz saw."

"What on earth is there, anyway, in the elimination of this degree from Canadian Royal Arch Masonry of sufficient importance to cause a reviewer to make it a central thread running through an entire report! An unstrung pearl or an unset diamond is considered by most persons of taste as more beautiful than one strung upon an almost invisible wire, or set in a foil of lead; and the real gems Companion B. selects, or writes, receive no additional value from being preceded or followed by a dozen or more paragraphs upon this stupendous subject."

He thinks that there was too much harping on the same string.

"The composers of such graceful and grand operas as the Bohemian Girl or Faust made some beautiful melodic theme run through the entire composition, and as the entrancing melody, or a phase of it, returns again and again, the ear is pleased, the senses are delighted and rested, and there is a profound enjoyment in the recurrences, but it would take a hardier critic than the writer to say—much less believe—that Companion Bennett's report is improved by the introduction of the aria of the Past Master's degree."

From the light but tuneful to the heavy and tragic —singular combination. Possibly "The Heart Bowed Down" had some attraction for him just then and anon his great soul was absorbed by Mephistopheles.

"Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast."

And that reminds us that if a sympathetic Companion should ever again direct a "sharp criticism" at Comp. L. we will solemnly declare that we have cast the objectionable aria into outer darkness and proceed to whistle "You'll Remember Me."

His peroration is a ponderously pleasant interpretation of our joke about the temptation—for which his "true procedure" was responsible, "to see a man."

Although we did not yield to it he assumes that we did, and deplores the result.

"Well, Companion Bennett, since we are not near enough to go together 'and see a man,' let us 'shake' and await a favorable opportunity."

Why certainly. "The world is full of such instances," and here is another weak mortal waiting a favorable opportunity. Having "shaken" metaphorically, we were about to part with Companion Long when we discovered to our regret that the wound was not quite healed, in fact was still very sore. While he enclosed our digits within his right hand his left concealed a fraternal blade for future opportunity. Under Illinois is found this thrust:

"Then he quotes—without garbling, as another has done in order to make a weak point—all of the writer's former discussion of the Past Master question under Oregon."

But after that "shake" what can one do but forgive. When he gets to Minnesota he must needs halt for another prod:

"In reviewing Canada he speaks of the belligerent aspect of the gallant Companion of that Grand Jurisdiction as he rides gayly into the reportorial list, 'full knightly, with his armor on,' and calls attention to the fact that 'the first outbreak is in the review of Indiana, in a sharp criticism of Companion Long on the Past Master's degree.' The 'outbreak' is met in the present review of Canada, and the writer hereof trusts that he was not unhorsed. At least he feels as if there was yet a saddle under him; and, although it may be the merest illusion of the mind, he has the impression that he is still 'cavorting around,' as usual."

Thinks he is still there. Well, "Long" may he "cavort" is our worst wish for him. It would indeed be difficult for an ordinary tilter, much less a new hand, to unhorse one skilled enough to use a couple of lances at once.

"A certain Canadian reviewer" receives another below the belt, under Ohio, but when he reaches Wisconsin he excels himself. Here is something elegant, choice, dignified and fraternal:

"He seldom mistakes, in others, buncombe for argument, and never uses it himself; and it is believed that, under Canada, in alluding to Companion Bennett's discussion (?) of the writer's

views concerning the Past Master's degree, he has misapplied a phrase in calling it 'the Canada method.' It would have been much fairer to Companions Robertson, Whyte and Chambers to have dubbed it 'the Bennett method.' Confine it to the one designation, please; so that no one else may be suspected under the use of a general term."

It was his last chance, the *coup de grace*, as he fondly hoped. Well, if the above is a specimen of Indiana "argument," may we be far removed when he descends to "buncombe." But, no, the patriarchal historian could never drop so low.

In the meantime, while he is "cavorting around," we may remark that to receive such an amount of attention from one of Companion Long's experience and attainments is decidedly flattering, and we like flattery. On the presumption that our case is hopeless, he has not attempted to remove us from the wrong path. One would much prefer to have Companion Long deal with a new hand as a new hand ought to be dealt by, but we can assure him that to another "Long theory" of the "true procedure" type, the "Bennett method" will be applied just as fearlessly, and we may add, as courteously, as before.

We have lingered with Companion Long because he so compelled us and would like to have produced from his extensive review many of the numerous good things which he lays before his Companions. Why they permitted a curtailment of his report in the future is inexplicable and a decision to be deplored. When next we meet it is hoped that the "sharp criticism" will be only a memory.

John E. Redmond. Logansport, Grand High Priest.
William H. Smythe, Indianapolis, Grand Secretary.

1897.

Congratulations are due the R. E. Comp. W. H. Smythe, Grand Secretary of Indiana's Grand Chapter. On the 20th October that body met at Indianapolis in annual Convocation for the fifty-second time, and in less than twenty days the printed proceedings were distributed. Such expedition is indeed rare.

Death made serious inroads in the ranks of the old guard, no less than four Past Grand High Priests being called away in the interval between the annual Convocations. M. E. Companions Thomas Pattison, 1865-66; Thomas Newby, 1866-68; Alexander Thomas, 1873-74; and Charles H. Butterfield, 1881-82. Nor was the line of present Grand officers spared, for on August 26th the Grand Scribe R. E. Comp. George S. Jones, M. D., died at the age of fifty-four. Grand High Priest J. E. Redmond makes graceful allusion to each in his address.

R. E. Comp. Thomas R. Marshall who represents Canada near his Grand chapter, was appointed to the office of Grand Scribe, made vacant by the death of R. E. Comp. Jones.

The charter of Osceola Chapter was arrested for non-payment of dues.

The G. H. P. issued a circular letter warning Chapters against using unauthorized rituals and promising swift punishment in case of contumacy.

The attendance of himself and three principal officers at General Grand Chapter is referred to with evident satisfaction. It was a festive week.

Grand Secretary Smythe in his report in 1891 recommended that the per capita tax be reduced from forty to thirty cents in view of the "handsome balance" in the treasury, over $5,000. This year he desires to go back to the forty cents, for while the receipts last year were $2,922.81, the expenses totalled $3,193.31.

The Claims Committee concurred in the recommendation and Grand Chapter endorsed it. Nothing was done to disturb the "pay roll" which the general membership of the Chapters will assist to maintain.

The Committee appointed to deal with the claim of King Solomon's Chapter to the number "one" brought in an elaborate report indicating that the subject had received the most careful scrutiny.

The complications which an admission of the claim would involve were set forth in detail and of course the report was adverse to the prayer of the memorial. Grand Chapter coincided.

Dispensations for Chapters at Oxford and Hammond were issued and a charter granted to Winainac Chapter.

A silver water set was presented to M. E. Companion John E. Redmond, the outgoing Grand High Priest.

Grand Chapter in the previous year, with a view to economy, decided that the report on Correspondence should not exceed one hundred pages, and with his wings thus clipped, M. E. Comp. Long is this time presented to us in sadly attenuated condition.

If there is a writer in the corps who requires elbow room and plenty of it, it is Companion Long. To crib, cabin and confine him within a limit of one hundred pages is something like caging a Hercules. How he consented to it is a puzzler; that he did consent, shows him to be as kindly yielding as he is powerful. Notwithstanding the shackles, he turns out an excellent review and gets in half a dozen pages extra. Canada for 1895 comes under his eagle eye.

"The Grand Chapter of Canada still maintains its very excellent system of District Superintendency, which all other Grand Jurisdictions could with much profit adopt."

"Our Canadian Companions are not unmindful of 'the greatest' of all the purposes of Masonry, charity. At the present session the Finance Committee was instructed to set apart the sum of one thousand dollars as a donation to the Sick Children's Hospital, $500 to be paid 1st February, 1897, and $500 on January 1st, 1898."

He concludes with a brief but kindly notice of the reviewer, and in which the latter's penchant for the old time "aria" is not even alluded to.

"Companion George J. Bennett presents his second report on correspondence, ably reviewing the proceedings of forty-seven Grand Chapters, in a pamphlet of two hundred and seventeen pages. Indiana for 1895 receives very favorable notice, and this writer is complimented both as to his historical paper then read, and upon the report on Correspondence, from which latter several extracts are made, including the injunction to 'keep close to the landmarks,' which occurs in the 'Conclusion.' It is much to be regretted that a certain other injunction of the Grand Chapter of Indiana prevents the present writer from extracting many excellent passages from this interesting report."

Under Maine he quotes Companion Drummond who takes issue with Grand Z. Robertson and the writer on their opinions of the Past Master and says:

"Canada has recently experienced serious throes in connection with the degree of Past Master, and the pain experienced in 'getting rid of it,' has led to several erroneous estimates by our Canadian Companions as to what it really is."

Now look at that, and after all the "pains" we've been at to show that the pain was not on our side. Pain is occasioned sometimes by the application of something "sharp," and to attacks of that nature we are simply invulnerable. The bracing Canadian atmosphere has a hardening effect, and the cuticle is not easily penetrated. Even our good Companion Long is permitted to prod away to his heart's content. We shall only smile, and in good time we hope to have him smile with us.

Robert A. Woods, Princeton, Grand High Priest.
Wm. H. Smythe, Indianapolis, Grand Secretary.

Iowa.

Chapters, 119; members, 7,358.

In the asylum of the Grand Commandery at Temple Park, Spirit Lake, on the 22nd July, 1897, the forty-fourth annual Convocation was opened in ample form by Comp. Max Beehler, Grand High Priest, whose fine open countenance beams out from the frontispiece of the "proceedings."

In his address he pays a becoming tribute to a venerable and faithful Companion whose demise occurred in the preceding April at the age of 86. Theodore Schreiner, familiarly known as "Father" Schreiner, was a member of all the Masonic bodies and rites and of the Shrine and Eastern Star. He acted as tyler, guard and sentinel for the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery respectively for nearly forty years.

To the memory of the esteemed wife of Grand Secretary T. S. Parvin he devoted over a page. She was a noble and charitable woman who took a deep

interest in works of benevolence, and was an active helpmeet to her enthusiastic Masonic partner in life whose labors for the advancement of Craft matters she worthily seconded. M. E. Comp. Beehler was a visitor:

"During my term of office I have visited about one-third of all the Chapters in our State. Some are doing excellent work, and in places where we least looked for we found the best ritualists. The smaller places are crowding their larger sister cities on perfection in ritual and punctuality. As a whole, Capitular degrees are conferred in too great a hurry, hence candidates do not acquire that perfection which they should in order to look upon the 'Chapter' as an independent organization in itself, and not only as a 'stepping-stone' for higher honors."

He appointed Companion Amos N. Albertson, Past Grand High Priest, as Grand Guard, vice Schreiner deceased.

In Iowa as elsewhere it was discovered that a spurious ritual was being used, and the incoming Grand High Priest was entrusted with the duty of formulating a plan to stop the pernicious practice.

Cyrene Chapter was organized in the town of Adair and a charter was authorized. Weld Chapter, at Ames, was also given its charter conditional that its name was changed.

Four hundred copies of the "Hindoo Theology" were printed, and it was announced they could be had under certain strict conditions for fifty cents a copy.

The following is from the report of the Committee on the Grand High Priest's address:

"Your committee again agree with the Most Excellent in refusing to grant dispensation to ballot out of time in all cases. While he did in some—as is his right—still your committee would urge upon all future Grand High Priests the necessity of having or cultivating plenty of spinal column when such requests are made. Applicants exalted under such circumstances are usually good for 'nit.'"

Pity that the vernacular of "Hogan's Alley" should blot an otherwise creditably prepared document.

A Companion submitted an amendment to the laws as follows: Referred to the Jurisprudence Committee:

"Each petition for the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry shall, in addition to the data required by Section 124 hereof, show the

place and date of the petitioner's birth, his parental and personal religion, and all other important facts relative to his Masonic and civil history that may be deemed necessary to record in the register of members."

Why not adopt the Bertillon system? In a case of invasion of territory before the Grievances Committee the offending Chapter was ordered to pay over to the one complaining the sum of $100.

The Ladies' Club of Templar Park had prepared an evening entertainment of a musical nature, when Grand Commander Loring on behalf of the fair ones made a speech of welcome to which the Grand High Priest in happy terms replied. Towards the close of his remarks he said:

"And now, my friends, I would not be doing justice in concluding these remarks without referring to that grand institution, the Order of the Eastern Star, the auxiliary of the Masonic institution, and one of its principal pillars of strength."

The tottering condition of the old Craft in the benighted lands where this twinkler fails to shine is now fully explained. However the evening was a delightful one and all present were gratified.

The second day's proceedings opened and Grand Chapter was called to refreshment in order that "the wives, daughters and friends of the Companions" should witness the ceremony of installation. At the conclusion the "wives, daughters and friends" retired from the hall "and the business of the session was resumed."

If the installation ceremony was not part of "the business of the session" there is a possibility of an excuse for this lapse from ancient usage. It may, as our Companions who favor it assert, do no harm, but it certainly can do no good.

Past Grand High Priest Theodore S. Parvin who is so favorably known to the Canadian Companions, presented a report as Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia. Among other matters of interest he said:

"We note that in this Grand Body, as, indeed, in all the Grand Masonic Bodies of the Dominion of Canada, that they have a 'Committee of General Purposes,' and from a personal visitation in past years to the several Grand Bodies—Grand

Lodges, Chapters and Priories, in Canada, we are made sensible of the value and utility of such a committee. No general legislation can come before the Grand Body until it has passed through that committee; it is like the nominations in the senate of the United States, when made by the President, they must be referred to the Committee on Nominations, or general matters of importance to the proper committee having in charge such subject. Why cannot our Grand Bodies in Iowa adopt a like wholesome regulation? It would save a great deal of valuable time, bring matters in much better shape before the body, and lead to much more satisfactory legislation."

Introducing his report on Correspondence, the genial Companion Eakenbrack says:

"Capitular Masonry is as vigorous and prosperous as ever. Fraternity is becoming more and more potential and useful with all enlightened people. Organizations multiply, but their perpetuity depends on the charity they inculcate.

There is no institution among men composed of more than two hundred thousand members that is so absolutely peaceful, harmonious, and charitable as Royal Arch Masonry. The poet Collins expressed the primal cause of this state of affairs when he wrote—

"Peace rules the day where reason rules the mind."

Canada for 1896 is generously noticed; he quotes the Grand Z. and says of him:

"The most Excellent, Companion J. Ross Robertson, who has served our Canadian Companions as Grand First Principal for the last two years is the most florid writer we have met with this year. The current of his discourse flows like the majestic St. Lawrence among the Thousand Islands in midsummer."

He is equally observant of the reporter and pleasantly notices our remarks on his failure as a prophet:

"We shall probably make no further attempts at prophecy, but we have an abiding faith that prosperity will visit Canada, and that the Royal Arch institution of the Dominion is susceptible to 'marvellous expansion.'"

He reproduces our conclusion dealing with the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee anniversary of Queen Victoria, preceding the quotation thus:

"As we read the following passage we do not take a roseate view of the 'question of annexation.'"

There is no "question," Companion, on that matter whatever. It is only heard of on one side of the border.

The latter is eliminated by the existence of a fraternity that is blind to political divisions.

William D. Irwine, Sioux City, Grand High Priest.
Alfred Wingate, DesMoines, Grand Secretary.

Kansas.

Chapters 82, members 5087.

In the city of Salina and on the 15th February, 1897, the thirty-second annual Convocation was convened. M. E. Samuel E. Busser, Grand High Priest, was an active aud diligent presiding officer as is gathered from his lengthy and interesting address.

"It was my privilege to make thirty-four visitations during the year. I delivered thirty-six addresses on Capitular Masonry. I conferred the Most Excellent Master's degree on sixty-one candidates, the Mark Master on ten, the Past Master on ten, and the Royal Arch on thirty-three, thus exalting eleven teams. I installed the officers of six Chapters. In the performance of these labors, I spent seventy-four days and many nights, and travelled in actual mileage in this service, nine thousand and twenty miles. I had definite word that three Chapters intended to surrender their charters when I visited them, every one of which has taken on new life, and I believe will be an honor to our roster. Thus I have presented to you this phase of my work for inspection, and though it has required the expenditure of considerable money, I feel confident it has accomplished such good as cannot be estimated in dollars and cents."

Among his decisions is the following;

"A Companion at a stated convocation applies for his dimit. The High Priest inquires of the Secretary whether his dues are all paid, and is answered affirmatively. He further inquires whether any charges are pending against the Companion, and is answered negatively. On vote of the Chapter the dimit is granted, and the High Priest so declares. Before that Convocation closes the Companion changes his mind and states that he wishes to remain a member of the Chapter."

Question. Can the Chapter reconsider its vote, and by such action recover his membership?

Answer. I replied that if a Companion asks for his dimit and is clear of the books and no charges pending against him, he is entitled to his dimit without a vote of the Chapter, and when that dimit is declared granted, he at once becomes an un-affiliated Royal Arch Mason, and can regain membership only by petition and ballot.

He advocates the work promulgated by the General Grand Chapter.

"Companions, it is impossible for a novice to learn the Hindoo theology; it must be taught him. The ritual of the General Grand Chapter is printed in full and easy to commit to memory. It is accompanied by diagrams of floor work. It is pure, refined, intelligible, solemn and impressive, and avoids those very evils which have brought reproach on Capitular Masonry."

The Grand Secretary is a sterling advocate of the correspondence end of the proceedings, and as a good reviewer should be, and his remarks might well be pondered by those jurisdictions which, like Indiana, economize in the wrong place.

"As is well known, the greater part of our proceedings is devoted to this correspondence, and in this connection we submit that it forms the most valuable part thereof to the craft. In it is collated the views of the leading Masonic writers, the decisions of Grand High Priests and Grand Chapters, and other gems of Masonic lore, a study of which would promote the growth of true Masonic light and knowledge, would build up in our ranks a class of scholars and writers who would be qualified to take the places of the veterans, who are, alas, now fast passing away. To do this requires space and printer's ink—expense; without it, our proceedings would be of little worth."

Cherokee Chapter U. D. was granted a charter. The committee on Necrology paid a tender and affectionate tribute to the memory of Past Grand High Priest Owen A. Bassett, who died in the previous July.

Harmony characterized the jurisdiction. There was nothing of a troublous nature to interfere with the leisure of the Grievances Committee.

The Ritual Committee did not approve straying from the old path, and a reprint of the Hindoo work was decided on.

The decision of the Grand High Priest already quoted, did not receive the sanction of the Jurisprudence Committee and Grand Chapter was also against it.

Like the good natured, unassuming Companion that he is, Comp. DeWit tells us that as correspondent he appreciates criticism and commendation alike. Just like others, but that is just where the "new hand" diff-

ers from a certain phase of the "old hand." Commendation there, is always in order, but criticism especially if pointed, and withal directed by a neophyte, is resented.

> "A perfect judge will read each work of wit
> With the same spirit that its author writ.
> Survey the whole nor seek slight faults to find,
> Where nature moves, and rapture warms the mind."

Companion DeWit's third review of the proceedings of the Grand Chapters is a conscientious compilation that merits attentive perusal even though Canada, lamentable to relate, had not reached him.

Charles E. Monell, Kirwin, Grand High Priest.
Jacob DeWit, Salina, Grand Secretary.

Kentucky.

Chapters 75, members 2923.

"Ole Kaintuck" is right in line. Nearly four score years has passed over its head and except in one respect shows little signs of weakness. As in the previous year, Louisville was honored with the annual convocation held on the 21st October, 1896, when the representatives of sixty of the Chapters attended with the Grand Officers and received a kindly welcome, a measure of instruction and expenses aggregating $1281.32.

M. E. John Grubbs Orndorff, Grand High Priest, presided and addressed Grand Chapter. The document was not uninteresting. He refers to his Grand Representative appointments and adds:

> "If the representatives would indeed represent, then the office of the Grand Representative would mean something more than a mere courteous formality and pretense of fraternal exchange."

He omitted to say what he expected the Grand Representative to do. He was the dignified embodiment of West Virginia himself, but the proceedings do not indicate that he busied himself to any extent about that Grand Chapter's welfare.

He announced that he had no decisions to report and concludes that the prevailing harmony accounts for it. He then adds:

"Since writing the foregoing, this question has come up from a Chapter, U. D., 'Is our Chapter allowed a delegate, or do we get taxed this year without representation?'"

Something practical about that, and it elicited a practical response.

"While this law seems conclusive, that officers, or representatives of Chapters U. D., are not members of the Grand Chapter, yet all the regulations of chartered Chapters are applicable to and binding upon Chapters U. D., which seems a down right inconsistency, in fact it is 'taxation without representation'; and our Constitution ought to be so amended in that regard; wherefore I recommend that the representative from Morganfield Chapter, U. D., be allowed the usual mileage and per diem, for reasons obvious."

He appealed and properly for a "digest" or book of Constitution, in order to determine decisions, and advanced some sound reasons for prompt action, adding:

"Besides these reasons the Grand Secretary informs me that there remains on hand only one printed copy of the Grand Constitution."

He urged, too, that the remuneration of the Correspondence Chairman should be increased.

"'The laborer is worthy of his hire,' and I earnestly recommend that the usual, or other adequate appropriation be made for the benefit of the present chairman of said committee, who has distinguished himself in this line, and enjoys to-day the reputation of a Masonic student and writer of ability."

He appointed a Visiting Committee for the Chapter in Louisville to witness the work, and to make a general report, so far as they were able, in the form of decisions, showing erroneous practices, if any, in Chapters visited.

This Committee of three did their work conscientiously, and reported "erroneous practices," thirty-three of them by the way, as follows:

"1. The title of the High Priest is 'Excellent,' (not 'Most Excellent;') of the King and Scribe. 'Companion,' (not 'Excellent.')

2. The 'Tyler' of a lodge is analogous to the 'Sentinel' of the Chapter.

3. A scepter is not a proper insignia of the H. P. or Scribe.

4. Officers and Companions should keep their places during the work. Moving about, 'funny doings,' whispering, etc. are reprehensible. If a presiding officer cannot maintain order, he should vacate the chair.

5. Blowing horns, except by the Herald, or to fairly represent signals for troops in assault, etc., (that is, for realistic effect) is wholly out of place and is very objectionable. So are 'hurrahs,' pulling, violent running, or noises having no realistic meaning appropriate to the occasion, or time when the events occurred.

6. Levity in the Chapter ought to be rebuked, and that with severity. If such misconduct is persisted in it ought to subject the offender to discipline. If there is any degree where levity is allowed, The Royal Arch is certainly not that degree.

7. The arch in architecture is a firm structure. A 'living arch' in Royal Arch Masonry should be as firm as human muscles can make it. Passing an arch is intended to convey a lesson that ought not to be obscured by anything that may detract from the words uttered by the P. S.

8. The Chapter ought to be habitually guarded, or 'tyled' by the 'sentinel' on the outside. No one should be permitted to enter or depart except by permission, appropriately asked for. Any other way is unlawful and very objectionable.

9. The C. H. has charge of the craft during the introduction of strangers among the workmen, and NO ONE should interfere (except the H. P.) without his request or consent.

10. The scribe 'reads' the law; the H. P. 'expounds' (explains or interprets) it.

11. The H. P. cannot truthfully say that he is ignorant of the mysterious characters on the ark, hence ought not so to state.

12. To accuse any one of 'misconduct' who has conformed with instructions, is unjust as it is erroneous, besides being unnecessary.

13. There is a form for the 'reprimand' which ought to be followed.

14. The Guard at the apartments of the Senior Warden ought to stand at 'attention,' with sword at a 'carry,' as a guard. There is no reason for any attempt to hide his identity or his weapon, nor ought he to strike the lattice or window with his sword. He should be instructed in his duties.

15. The 'battery' is clearly indicated in the ritual, every concussion and grouping has distinct significance. Uniformity is desirable, hence the meaning and methods ought to be explained. Errors should be corrected, and explanations given, by the H. P. whenever necessary.

16. Every letter on the Key-Stone has its own meaning, the interpretation whereof should be alike in all cases, by every Chapter.

17. The Chapter, or a 'Chapter-lodge,' cannot be properly opened nor closed without 'giving a lecture or a part of a lecture.' Therefore the simple declaration is not sufficient.

18. The name of the artificer to whom was confided the art-work of the Tabernacle, is pronounced 'Be-zal-e-el,' accenting the second syllable and giving the 'a' the short sound, (as in fat.)

19. The S. D. or leader, answers the first demand of each

overseer which is not repeated to the two other workmen from the quarries with work for inspection.

20. Though it is usage, it is irrational to carry a pattern on three squares borne by three overseers. A mere glance at its size will suggest this, also that it ought to be carried by but one although others go in his company that they may receive instructions. Nothing so absurd can be correct in Masonry.

21. To carry the jewels of presiding Masters on a shovel, is absurd. It becomes doubly so when the shovel is supported by a pick and crow.

22. The lion is a symbol of COURAGE, not of 'strength.'

23. The KEY is not to be changed.

24. The Tetragrammaton is given in conferring the Royal Arch degree, not in opening or closing a Chapter.

25. A 'substitute' is (except in one particular) treated as a candidate, and remains with the others.

26. Reading the ritual can hardly be condemned too strongly.

27. The 'Book of the Law' that was deposited in the ark, was, no doubt, a parchment roll—not a modern printed and bound Bible.

28. The Holy Bible ought always to be open in Lodge and Chapter. To close it in the P. M. degree is erroneous.

29. The 'Mark' is properly a pledge in seeking relief, not for ordinary loans.

30. Recording a 'Mark' should never be neglected or overlooked; and, to conform to law, must be done before the R. A. can be conferred.

31. The O. B. should be given without additions or curtailment.

32. To follow the ritual in all things is obligatory. Companions may be able to improve the 'work' of experienced craftsmen, which was adopted by Grand Chapter, but the matter has not been left to the wisdom or discretion of any one.

33. The 'Rules of Order' of the Grand Chapter should, as far as practicable, (or applicable) be followed by subordinate Chapters.

He referred touchingly to "our own Old Kentucky Home" established for the Masonic widow and orphan.

"Think of it, Companions! Nearly 1000 helpless ones, 'of the household of faith' among us, have found shelter, and food, and raiment, and training, and tender loving care, and a HOME, because they were homeless. During the past year 263 have been cared for, at a cost of only $92.67 per capita. May the scenes you witnessed this afternoon, at the exhibition of our adopted children, awake an increasing inspiration in your breasts, that shall stimulate you to yet greater deeds of charity, and prove a solace to each of you in your declining days."

The Finance Committee recommended the arrest of seven charters, the Chapter officers having failed to respond. This clause was included and is significant:

"The P. G. H. Priests receive the same wages as the representatives, and should be required to perform the same labor. We therefore recommend they should be required to answer to roll-call in order to draw per diem and mileage."

The Committee on By-Laws submitted a model code, which was ordered to lie over for a year.

M. E. Comp. J. W. Staton whose valuable services as correspondent we were glad to see were duly recognized in accordance with his merits, and the G. H. P's recommendation, submits a capital review, which owing to our change in date does not include Canada. There is very little value that escapes his vision and the Companions of Kentucky may well be pleased to possess a caterer who can spread before them so appetising a feast.

Henry Ranshaw, Covington, Grand High Priest.
Harry. B. Grant, Louisville, Grand Secretary.

Louisiana.

Chapters, 19; members, 1,014.

This Grand Chapter completed its half century of existence with the close of the annual Convocation held in New Orleans, on February 9th, 1897.

Grand High Priest, Robert H. Cage, congratulated the Companions upon the stability of the Royal Craft, although the accessions of past years were not continued and the intelligence of the membership was apparent from the fact that he had no decisions to report. He instituted the new Chapter at Lake Charles and predicts for it a prosperous future.

He suggests some useful employment for the Grand Representatives:

"While the office of Grand Representative is one of honor, yet there should be a certain amount of labor attached to it, for 'labor is love.' and I would suggest to them that they make a full and complete report to their respective Grand Jurisdictions of the workings and condition of Capitular Masonry in Louisiana, which, in turn, will bring reports from our sister Grand Jurisdictions, thus bringing us nearer together and cementing that invisible tie which binds us as true and faithful Companions."

By the way, one of the Companions he recom-

mended was appointed to represent "the Grand Chapter of Victoria, B. C., near this Grand Chapter."

The intelligent "comp." or perhaps proof reader, must have been responsible for that blunder. It could never have been the G. H. P.

Again the Grand Lecturer is commended for his zealous labours. He speaks of that officer as one "whose life work is devoted to handing down unimpaired the tenets received from the fathers."

If the ritual of this jurisdiction is handed down "from the fathers," that ought to commend it to Companion Drummond as the correct article, but he is silent on the criticism of the pundit of Maine and takes occasion to eulogize the work as practiced in Louisiana and refers to it "with pleasure and pride."

By resolution a sum of $300 was appropriated for the relief of destitute Masons and their families in the drouth stricken portions of the State.

Companion Herman C. Duncan submits a brief but concise report on Correspondence. Canada had not covered the journey in time to reach him. Kentucky had expressed a surprise that Louisiana should have recognized Victoria before that august body the General Grand Chapter had approved, and this is how Comp. Duncan replies:

"For Louisiana, we answer, that we shall continue to attend to our own business. and the action of recognizing or refusing to recognize a sovereign Grand Chapter by the General Grand Chapter, while being given due consideration, will not be binding upon us or directory of our actions. The General Grand Chapter exists for no such purpose. When it transcends its rights it will forfeit the respect and obedience of its constituents. No man who is a real friend of the General Grand Chapter will urge it to transcend its constitutional powers.

* * * * * * * * *

Let us say one word more for the good of the General Grand Chapter—if certain Companions insist, and succeed in their insistence, by making the General Grand Chapter assume prerogatives parallel to those of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, then and not only will the Grand Chapters now out of the bond stay out, but they will be joined by others now within."

R. H. Cage, New Iberia, Grand High Priest.
Richard Lambert, New Orleans, Grand Secretary.

Maine.

Chapters, 54; Members, 5,897.

Henry S. Webster, the M. E. Grand High Priest, presided over the deliberations of Maine's twenty-first annual Convocation, held in Portland, Tuesday, May 5th, 1896.

He announced an increase in membership and a prevalence of complete harmony.

In the death of Past Grand High Priest Stephen Jewett Young, he lost a friend and preceptor, and feelingly he refers to their connection in life and the rare merits of the deceased.

He declared the proceedings irregular in the case of a brother who had received the Mark degree, having removed to another part of the jurisdiction, being advanced to the Royal Arch in a Chapter near his new abode, his former Chapter consenting. He held that a formal petition should have been presented by the candidate and a waiver of jurisdiction procured from his old Chapter.

No doubt it would have been more regular, but as the Chapter conferring the degrees received the fees there was very little to complain about. He decided that under the circumstances the original Chapter claims him as member.

He made a number of visitations, as did his principal officers, and a perusal of their interesting reports at once bears out the G. H. P's. statement that all is well in Maine. While solitary instances of levity and error are noticed, the work on the whole was declared to be most creditable, and it must be admitted that the inspecting officers did their duty admirably.

A petition from Companions at Rumford Falls for a dispensation to start a new Chapter was acceded to. Similar applications from Green's Landing and Pittsfield were not so fortunate. In the latter case, however, they have the prospect of the Chapter now at Newport being located with them.

The veteran Companion Drummond is of course the reviewer as of yore. With him at the helm, the

Craft in Maine will never, or hardly ever, stray a point out of its course. His views are invariably sound, and when once uttered, no power Masonic could ever move him. It is, however, cheering to observe his timely admonitions to others. For instance, this under Arizona:

"We are sorry to find that uniformity with the Pacific Coast States is deemed of more importance than uniformity with the craft throughout the country. These local divisions are contrary to the spirit of the institution, and we deem it the duty of every good Mason to be willing to yield some of his individual views and local usages to promote the universality of Masonry."

That universality, however, seems to stop at the Atlantic coast.

He has had Canada for 1895 under examination. Of the Grand Z. he says:

"He is in the habit of doing things very thoroughly, and he carried this habit into the performance of the duties of this office."

He of course dissents altogether from Canada's view of the Past Master, and expresses regret at its elimination from the system.

We fear that he has misread us in this connection. The existence of the law and the penalties for its violation we were well aware of, nor did we entertain for a moment the idea that our American cousins would ever be asked to violate it. We had plainly put that fact elsewhere than under Maine, but we did express our regret that a law that would thus shut a Royal Arch Mason out of a Royal Arch Chapter should be maintained without a qualification. The United States of America is not, after all, the entire universe, and Royal Arch Masonry, it will be admitted, is meant to be world wide in its beneficial influence. In England, Ireland, far away India, Australia and other British colonies are hundreds of Chapters where this prerequisite was never heard of, and these Chapters possess many thousands of Royal Arch Masons whose right to sit in a Royal Arch Chapter is as sound as any on this continent. If otherwise, what has become of the universality that they have been taught to believe in? How long would

respect for it last if in England and Ireland the newly exalted was told that Chapters the world over were open to him except in English-speaking America. We can fancy a discourse like the following:

"But," he would ask, "what would prevent my visiting there?"

"The simple fact that you do not possess the intermediate degrees practised by them; of course they might give them to you just to qualify on."

"But I do not want those degrees, I only desire to visit the Chapter. I am a Royal Arch Mason, is not that qualification enough?"

"Yes, but you have to conform to their laws. It is true you are a Royal Arch Mason just as much as they are, but without those degrees the Chapter is closed against you."

"Then my visiting depends upon taking what I do not require?"

"Sufficient that they require it. You, as a Royal Arch Mason, are not considered. If you do not submit, you can go the right about, that's all."

"It seems to me that universal fraternity ceases at the Mark degree. Do English Chapters object to an American-visiting Companion?"

"Certainly not, as long as he comes under good report. Every Royal Arch Mason thus qualified can enter an English Chapter no matter where he hails from or how many degrees he carries."

Such a dialogue as the above is not only possible but very probable, and the effect it might have upon the young Companion is equally problematical. Observing the many American reviewers whose expressed dissent from the Past Master was strong, and having in view a possible amendment to a cast iron law, we remarked thus in our first report, "and we trust the day will never dawn when a Canadian Companion's entrance to an American Chapter will be barred merely because he lacks that more than 'apparent anomaly,' the Past Master's degree.' Companion Drummond replies:

"That 'day will certainly dawn' the first time a Canadian Companion undertakes to visit an American Chapter. To admit

a Companion without conferring upon him, as our Chapters are authorized to do, the Past Master's degree, would be a violation of the Masonic law, both of the State and the United States, that would render the Chapter liable to lose its charter."

Yet this is the Companion who appeals to him of Arizona to "yield some of his individual views and local usages to promote the universality of Masonry."

Now for a personal experience. It is a little more than a quarter of a century since the writer received the Royal Arch degree in a Chapter under the English constitution, and the beautiful ceremony left a deep and lasting impression. Some years later he found himself on this side of the Atlantic and soon sought out the home of the Craft in Toronto. It happened to be a Chapter night, and as the R. A. certificate was with the rest of his credentials he confidently went forward for examination and admission. That examination was rigid and searching but the board of trial was thoroughly satisfied. The information however was furnished that there were two preliminary degrees which, if he desired to affiliate with any Chapter, it would be necessary to have communicated. As a Royal Mason, however, he was cordially and fraternally welcomed, admitted and introduced to the officers and members, the escort announcing him as a Companion who had not received two of the intermediate degrees. The ceremony of exaltation impressively performed was witnessed and later he spent a pleasant hour with Companions who did their utmost to make him feel at home.

In this instance, as in hundreds of other similar within our ken, the visitor was recognized and treated as a Companion Royal Arch Mason. Had he visited Maine and encountered Companion Drummond, he would have been told that there was a law that kept him on the cold side of the portals unless he submitted to it. No need to urge that his allegiance was to universal Masonry and that he knew nothing of an enactment that applied only to one corner of the globe. Equally useless would be his assurance that as a Royal Arch Mason he desired to visit Royal Arch Masons but not at the price that he be compelled to receive something that he did not want, that he was never

taught to believe was necessary, and in fact had never heard about. The regulation is perhaps all right when governing the membership, but so impressed are we with the injustice, the unreasonableness of it, as applied to visitors from foreign jurisdictions, that we are quite sure if the "day dawned" for us in Canada on the occasion of that first visit, as it would "dawn" under Companion Drummond's ruling, we would not now be engaged in pleasantly arguing the point with that worthy Companion.

He breathes a legal atmosphere and true to his instincts his theme is ever the law, the law as it is in Maine, and the laws governing elsewhere. There are occasionally faults elsewhere although they are set in a code of laws. We have yet to discover a flaw in Maine:

> "I am a subject
> And challenge law; attorneys are denied me;
> And therefore personally I lay my claim
> To my inheritance."

In noting a rebuke from Companion Gardner, of New York, to those who would discard or altar the old time words, terms and phrases peculiar to Masonry, he says:

"We dislike very much to have old Masonic words discarded, even if they have become obsolete. We once were consulted as to the propriety of a proposition to change the phrase 'so mote it be,' because it is obsolete and liable not to be understood by the profane. The consultation was a *short* one."

Poor fellow, "he never came back." One consultation was enough. Innovation finds in him an uncompromising foe. To a Vermont opinion of Kentucky's "previous question" ruling, he adds:

"Maine is not troubled that way either, and no jurisdiction ought to be; but the supporters of the modern doctrine cannot seem to comprehend that the 'Master rules and governs his lodge,' or if they do comprehend it, they are shocked at what appears to be the despotism of it; but still such is the ancient law of Masonry, and all these resolutions about allowing the previous question, etc., are innovations upon that ancient law."

A great storehouse of information is Companion Drummond's report. One is always stumbling upon something good. Take this under Maryland:

"The usage of public installations has already been traced back to as early a time as the origin of the Royal Arch degree."

This then is one of the things "handed down from the fathers," and one naturally wonders if in that good old time the "sisters" were there to aid and "charm."

This statement regarding public installations is combatted by Companion Africa, of Pennsylvania, who asks "how far back?" Whereupon Companion Drummond, who never does things by halves, gives him over eight pages of caustic explanation and apt quotation, especially of the earlier practice in the Quaker State. Discussion of an incident of 1778 especially is interesting. The Ahiman Rezon of 1783 was quoted as proving that a public Masonic ceremony took place in that State. Companion Africa had replied:

"Well, his 'impression' is erroneous, and his 'remembrance,' as usual, is at fault. There is not one word in the account about either the opening or closing of a Grand or subordinate Lodge, or about the 'Brethren in the church' giving 'certain signs' or any 'signs.'"

And Companion Drummond who had discovered a copy of the ancient volume, and "stopped the press" to vindicate his memory, responded:

"And yet, in Dr Smith's account of the exercises is the following, precisely as we remembered it:

At the word 'GLORY,' the Brethren rose together; and, in reverential posture, on pronouncing the names of the TRIUNE GOD, accompanied the same by a correspondent repetition of the ANCIENT SIGN or Symbol of Divine Homage or Obeisance; concluding with the following RESPONSE: 'Amen, so let it be.'

Which horn of the evident dilemma will Comp. Africa take? We are never moved by courteous criticism, however erroneous: but we confess, that this *arrogant* criticism, when we were ABSOLUTELY *right* and he *absolutely* wrong, although he had the means of ascertaining the truth in *his* hand, but inaccessible to his readers, somewhat stirs our indignation—and whether righteously or not we leave to our associate correspondents."

It is indiscreet to try conclusions sometimes with a man possessing a memory.

Companion Drummond experimented with a stenographer on this occasion, which he says accounts for

the length of his report, and adds that he will correct that error. Rather secure a second stenographer.

Henry S. Webster, Gardiner, Grand High Priest.
Stephen Berry, Portland, Grand Secretary.

Maryland.

Chapters, 18; members, 1,764.

On April 23rd, 1896, Grand High Priest. W. H. Shryock, convened a special Convocation of Grand Chapter at Baltimore, for the purpose of illustrating the degrees and giving instruction. It continued for three evenings and was most successful. The Grand High Priest himself conferred the Mark, Most Excellent and Royal Arch degrees. A skilled choir composed of Companions contributed appropriate musical accompaniments and over three hundred Companions witnessed the ceremonies.

The ninety-ninth annual was opened in the same place on November 10th following. M. E. Companion Shryock delivered a thoughtful address. He regrets the want of attention in new members which he attributes to a desire to reach something higher :

"It must be acknowledged that among the younger Companions especially, there seems to be less interest manifested in the Chapter than in other branches of Masonry. This was so in the early days. Then Lodges and Chapters were much more intimately connected than now, and it was not unusual to find a prosperous Lodge with a Chapter 'under its wing.'

* * * * * * * * * * * *

"In view of the fact that our examinations in open Chapter as to proficiency as required by standing resolutions of Grand Chapter, November, 1857 and 1875, have been, in the past, so flagrantly violated as almost to become farcical, on assuming the duties of Grand High Priest I issued an order that the examinations must be more rigid, and instructed our Grand Lecturer to see this order carried out. I am glad to be able to report a very marked improvement in this particular."

He possesses the praiseworthy record of having visited every Chapter in the jurisdiction, and reports them working in peace and harmony. During the term Maryland lost a worthy Mason in Past Grand High Priest C. V. S. Levy, who died December 8th, 1895, at the comparatively early age of 51.

It was discovered that the action of Grand Chapter last year in adopting a resolution making the minimum fee for the degrees in Chapters outside of Baltimore city fifteen dollars, was opposed to the constitution of the General Grand, and a circular was at once issued to the subordinates instructing them, in cases where the amendment was taken advantage of, to at once restore the fee to twenty dollars. Rather a singular slip on the part of a Grand Chapter which is honored by possessing the General Grand High Priest as its Grand Secretary.

The Committee on the Centennial Celebration submitted the prepared programme.

The substitute system, except by dispensation, was frowned upon in a resolution.

Comp. Schultz announces his "coming of age" as correspondent, and indulges in a retrospect. His report, like many others, does not include Canada, but it is none the less interesting.

He is apparently not a "dependent membership" advocate, for he says in reply to Comp. Barlow:

"While it is too true that many 'prefer the fuss and feathers of the Commandery or the Mystic Shrine' to that of the more quiet and sober teachings of the Lodge and Chapter, there is, in our opinion, no way in which we can compel a Brother or Companion to retain his membership in Lodge or Chapter.

"If we would, however, require a membership in Lodge, at least twelve months, for eligibility to the Chapter degrees, and the same length of time for the eligibility of a Companion to receive the Templar orders, and say a membership of ten or twenty years in the Commandery to acquire eligibility in the Mystic Shrine, then perhaps the Lodge and Chapter would not, as they are too often now, be used 'only as a ladder to attain' the proud and lofty title of a 'Noble' of the 'Mystic Shrine.' For the probationary periods required would give the Brother an opportunity to discover the hidden treasures of the Lodge and Chapter, and he would find out that the Lodge and Chapter are not to be used merely as stepping stones for something higher."

William H. Shryock, Baltimore, Grand High Priest.
Geo. L. McCahan, Baltimore, Grand Secretary.

Massachusetts.

Chapters, 74; members, 14,577.

At the quarterly Convocation held in Boston on March 10th, 1896, the Memorial Committee's report recorded the Masonic and civil services of the late R. E. William Steele Shurtleff, who was for many years Judge of the Court of Probate and Insolvency for the county of Hampden. He was Grand King of the Grand Chapter in 1861:

"Evidence of his carefulness and ability is found in the fact that not one of his decisions on questions of law has ever been overruled by a higher court."

The Grand High Priest recommended that initiatory steps be taken to arrange for the celebration of the centenary of the Grand Chapter.

The death of R. E. Comp. Josiah Carver Fuller, Grand Scribe in 1875, was announced and commented on at the September Convocation. The Grand Treasurer, R. E. Comp. John Haigh, whose serious illness was the occasion of a feeling reference at the June Convocation, had also passed to his rest and the Committee paid an equally touching tribute to his memory:

"No man ever had a more ardent love for Masonry, or tried more zealously to advance its interests.

For many years he had been a careful and enthusiastic collector of Masonic literature, and the library he gathered has few equals among the Masonic libraries of the world."

The ninety-eighth annual Convocation was held in the Boylston Street Masonic Hall, Boston, on the 8th December, 1896. M. E. Comp. J. Gilman Waite, Grand High Priest, after an exemplification of the degrees, which as is customary, preceded the business of the Convocation:

"took occasion to again allude to the subject of music in the Chapter degrees, especially commending the congregational singing, joined in by all present. He said that this was the only kind of singing that was proper to introduce in the Mark and Most Excellent degrees, as the whole theory of these degrees is, that all are joining in the celebrations that are represented in them, and the mind is distracted and drawn from

the story of the degree, which should always be plainly and clearly told, by any attempt to introduce classical music that could only be properly sung by a trained quartette."

A proposed amendment to the constitution, having for its object the wiping out of the jurisdiction line, by permitting a brother to make application for the Capitular degrees to any Chapter he might choose within the State, was reported on adversely by the committee to whom it was referred :

"While there are many things to be said in favor of concurrent jurisdiction, still the law we now have has on the whole worked with as little friction as it is possible for any law on the subject to work. The proposed change is so radical in its character that we fear that for a long time it would, if adopted, be the source of a greater amount of trouble and vexation than has come from the present law.

Your Committee therefore recommend that the subject be indefinitely postponed."

M. E. Comp. J. Gilman Waite for the third time addressed the Companions as Grand High Priest, and congratulated Grand Chapter on "large accessions." Among his appointments as Grand Representatives is observed the name of M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding, of Stratford, Ont. Seven Chapters of instruction were held under the superintendence of the Grand Lecturer at different points of the jurisdiction, and each was attended by the G. H. P., who testifies to their beneficial effect.

Such topics as imperfect notices of meetings and the business to be transacted therein, the necessity for strict vigilance on the part of investigating Committees with regard to the antecedents of applicants, and the responsibility resting on the head of each Chapter in the matter of prompt collection of dues, are treated at length by him.

"Preferment goes by letter and affection."

We lift our caubeen to his illustrious successor. By the unanimous vote of Grand Chapter Comp. Seranus Bowen was selected for the exalted office of Grand High Priest. It was a most graceful as it was a most well deserved compliment to the genial Grand Secretary and accomplished reporter. Comp. Bowen

will now be the head and tail of the proceedings, for with rare good judgment the Companions have retained his services as reviewer. What an opportunity. To be able from the lowly round table to gaze aloft and see himself clothed in greatness and wisdom and to feel that the other fellows will be in a position to black-eye him from two vantage points, may not make him a bit happier, but

> "The Douglas and the Hotspur, both together
> Are confident against the world in arms."

He tackles his report at any rate without a tremor, and in his own good style serves up something tasty, but probably he was unaware of what was coming. With his view of the dependent membership doctrine we are much inclined to agree. The importance of the lodge and that it is the duty of every Mason to support it believes in.

"But we also believe that it is altogether the strongest body in Masonry, is amply able to protect itself regarding drones and does not need that other Grand Bodies should attempt to legislate in its behalf. So far as we are able to judge from observation nothing has been gained by the Lodge as the result of such legislation. What we need is not more laws and more penalties, but to inculcate a clearer idea of the duties of our members. If we have, unfortunately, a member who will shirk every duty that he can, no law that can be made will ever make him a good Mason or anything but a discredit to the institution, and it doesn't take a great while for such a man to find his level."

A review of Canada does not assist on the occasion to embellish Comp. Bowen's report, and we regret it, as under the circumstances he would probably be inclined to let us down easy. We shall look for something extra next time however. Congratulations again.

Seranus Bowen, Boston, Grand High Priest.
J. Albert Blake, Boston, Grand Secretary.

1897.

General Grand High Priest McCahan was a visitor at the quarterly Convocation, held at Boston, on March 9th, 1897. He addressed Grand Chapter at length, and

"Alluded to the pleasure it had given to be present at the

annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island this day when they had voted to be represented at the next Triennial of the General Grand Chapter."

At the quarterly Convocation on June 8th, it was decided that the Grand Chapter should be represented at Maryland's centennial celebration.

On the 7th December, 1897, the business of the annual Convocation was preceded as usual with an exemplification of the degrees. M. E. Companion Seranus Bowen's address did not weary the Companions. It was sensibly brief.

Referring to a case where he was called upon to help a Chapter which had been deprived of its principal officers by reason of the removal of a large industry from the town where it is located, he announced his action in the matter, and remarked that it is his only decision of importance:

"Law and Masonic custom seem to be so well understood in the Chapters that for some years no decision has been called for from the Grand High Priest in this jurisdiction of sufficient importance to need to be repeated."

Later on, alluding to the necessity for care in the admission of visitors, he says:

"I refer to this for the reason that from some information that has come officially to me quite recently I am led to believe that some High Priests are so ignorant of common Masonic law, or so careless in discharging their sworn duty, that Royal Arch Masons who are not in good standing have not only been admitted to the Chapter but asked to take part in the work and have been ostentatiously honored."

Singular state of affairs in a jurisdiction where "law and Masonic custom seem to be so well understood."

Companion Bowen, who was elected Grand High Priest, presents his seventh report on Correspondence, and gives to Canada for 1896 a couple of pages of his attention, mostly quotations from the Grand Z's address and our own report. His review is embraced in 120 pages, and is largely extract presented in attractive form.

Seranus Bowen, Boston, Grand High Priest.
J. Albert Blake, Boston, Grand Secretary.

Michigan.

Chapters, 127 ; members, 13,064.

What is presumed to be a fine portrait of Comp. L. B. Winser, the M. E. Grand High Priest for 1896, appropriately opens the volume of proceedings. It is characterized by two prominent features, an expressive countenance and a Shrine button, the latter testifying to the fearlessness displayed in the former. He presided over the forty-eighth annual Convocation, held in the city of Saginaw's Masonic Temple, on the 19th January, 1897, and delivered to his Companions an address of considerable length and not a little merit. He reported "a good healthy, steady, prosperous growth all along the line," and in spite of threatening clouds the calm of harmony and peace was apparent everywhere.

In the previous February he received an urgent appeal from the committee at Grand Rapids for advice and assistance in connection with the Masonic Home, which seems to have attained the dimensions of a white elephant. In a populous and wealthy Masonic constituency like Michigan this eminently noble and charitable institution was brought into existence and fostered for some time with a degree of enthusiasm that augured promisingly for its stability. There may be information and moral for Canadian brethren in both the appeal referred to and the proposal to lighten the existing difficulty :

"Dear Bro.—A crisis has been reached in the affairs of the Michigan Masonic Home. Shall its doors be closed and this most laudable Masonic charity become a thing of the past, and the Masonic Fraternity disgraced because of its failure? The Masons in this city are thoroughly aroused in behalf of renewed efforts to save the Michigan Masonic Home and prevent this disgrace.

The Michigan Masonic Home is a State Masonic charity and the Masons of Grand Rapids alone are unable to maintain it.

The question is, What is the best thing to do? You are recognized as a warm friend of the Michigan Masonic Home, and the undersigned have been appointed a committee to write you and urge you to be present at a meeting of prominent Masons throughout this state to be held in the Masonic Temple in this city, at 2 p. m., on Thursday, March 5th, to consider this

question. At this meeting a full exhibit and a detailed statement of the affairs of the Home will be submitted.

No money or pledges will be solicited at this meeting, nor is this in the nature of an appeal to you for financial aid. We seek your advice.

Will you not endeavor to be present on that occasion? Should any circumstances arise whereby you could not be present, you will please write Ed. L. Bowring, Chairman, giving your ideas and suggestions upon this subject?

Could you suggest a practical plan for an endowment or any thing else which will provide a permanent future support of the Home?

It will require about $10,000 annually to maintain the Home filled to its present capacity of 100?"

The G. H. P. was unable to attend the meeting but

"At the suggestion of the Grand Secretary, a warrant was issued to the Masonic Home for the amount of all funds in our Grand Treasurer's hands, raised for that purpose."

It is gathered from the Finance Committee's report that the sum amounted to $226.35. At a later stage the special committee to whom was referred the matter presented the following which was adopted by Grand Chapter:

"Your Committee, to whom was referred the several communications addressed to the Grand High Priest, relating to a proposed transfer of the Michigan Masonic Home to the four Masonic Grand Bodies of this State, to wit: Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery, beg to report briefly the substance of the proposed transfer.

The Home Association proposes to convey all of its property, grounds, buildings, furniture and other assets. to a board of trustees, one of whom is to be elected by each of said Grand Bodies; its affairs to be managed by a board of control, three of whom are to be elected by each of said Grand Bodies, to serve one, two and three years respectively; that the board of control shall endeavor to support the Home by voluntary contributions of Masons and other charitably disposed persons, and in case it cannot be so maintained and said Grand Bodies refuse to provide funds for its support, the property is to be sold and the proceeds covered into the treasury of the Grand Lodge to be devoted to Masonic charitable purposes.

Your committee believes that this Grand Chapter, in accepting the proposition, does not assume any pecuniary responsibility, and, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Michigan, do, subject to concurrent action of the

other Grand Bodies concerned, accept the proposition so made, and proceed to elect at the approaching election of officers, one trustee, to receive the title as proposed, and three members of the board of control, to serve one, two and three years respectively, but it is distinctly understood that this Grand Chapter explicitly declines to pledge itself to contribute any of its funds for the support of said Masonic Home."

The G. H. P. presents quite a formidable array of knotty questions submitted to him and his decisions thereon. Some of them are interesting. Here is number one:

"Can a Companion demand and receive his dimit provided he does not leave the jurisdiction of his Chapter? His reasons for asking for a dimit are that he does not like a fellow Companion and rather than sit in Chapter with him, demands his dimit."

"Answer. No. The dimit can only be granted at a regular Convocation of the Chapter by a majority vote of those present and it is their option to grant a dimit or not, as they may see fit."

Michigan, as we have had occasion to remark ere this, is the possessor of a code of laws that for novelty as well as adamant caps those of the Medes and Persians. Here is a Companion, who, for valid reason, desires to withdraw. In the name of all that's "free" why should that desire, with or without reason, be voted upon? Suppose his request fails to receive a majority vote, can the Chapter compel his attendance? The idea is absurd. But its Michigan law. Here is another:

"Can a member of a Chapter dimit from a lodge of Master Masons and remain a voluntary non-affiliate and still be entitled to membership in the Chapter?"

"Answer. No. See Article XI, Grand Chapter Edicts."

We commented on this phase of the code in a previous report, and furnished an illustration that demonstrated its harshness. It was a case in which a brother could not, for good reason, associate with another in a blue Lodge, and for that same reason was obliged to demit. He retained Masonic connection however through the Chapter, a connection, which, if affected by the following, would have clouded his declining years.

"Can a Chapter legally try and suspend a member on the charge that he is a voluntary non-affiliated Master Mason?

"Answer. Yes. Provided that said voluntary non-affiliation has existed for a period of twelve months."

The uncharitable would say that it is an offence to be poor in Michigan. The G. H. P. in another case decides, and of course the law, not his own good feelings guides:

"In the case of the offense of non-payment of dues, charges must be preferred, and trial had, as for any other Masonic offence."

This is hard or seemingly so. In Canada the non-payment of dues, if unexplained, carries with it suspension, which suspension is at once removed by payment of the indebtedness. Although a violation of obligation when silence is maintained, it is not regarded as an offence calling for trial and punishment. Where explanation is offered the Chapter invariably remits part, if not the whole, of the dues owing and encourages the poor Companion to the belief that there is something more in Freemasonry than mere words.

"If poverty is the mother of crimes, want of sense is the father."

There are, it is admitted, instances where the Companion who can and won't pay deserves all the opprobrium that can be meted out, and to whom trial and a "punishment to fit the crime" would be in place, but to the poor Companion, too sensitive to reveal his true condition, the application of such measures amounts to cruelty.

To two or three questions submitted, the G. H. P. made the rather startling admission that the "code" did not provide a suitable reply. We earnestly trust that these glaring defects will lead up to a revision. Here is something that touches near home:

"Three worthy Master Masons are desirous of joining Sam Ward Chapter, No. 128. R. A. M.; their residence is in Canada, about one mile from this Chapter; the nearest Chapter they have is twenty miles away; they say that they will not go to Sarnia to join, would ask if we can consistently receive them here and exalt them, provided there was not objections at the

time of their being balloted on, would there be any violation on my part to proceed with the work, and should we exalt them would this Chapter have to refund the fees to Sarnia Chapter?

Answer. Your Chapter cannot confer the degrees upon Master Masons whose residence is in Canada, either with or without objections, as a Chapter cannot relinquish a part of its territorial jurisdiction to another Chapter, even if it is willing to do so. The only way these brothers could receive the degrees in Sam Ward Chapter, would be for them to apply to Sarnia Chapter in the regular way, then if they were elected, Sarnia Chapter could, if they desired, in a legal way request Sam Ward Chapter to confer the degrees for them. In that case they would be members of Sarnia Chapter."

Now "mark well" the above reply and con the following question and answer under the same heading:

"Can a Chapter of a foreign Grand Jurisdiction waive their personal jurisdiction, by a communication direct to a Chapter under this Grand Jurisdiction?

Answer. No. Chapters of different Grand Jurisdictions cannot hold Masonic communication with each other, and all such communications must come from and between the Grand High Priests or through the Grand Secretaries under seal."

There is a shadow of conflict about these decisions. The Chapter at Sarnia, we opine, would know how to relegate the matter to the proper quarter for guidance. If they didn't it would be a case of "Sam Hill" with somebody. It may be added that the special committee on Jurisprudence concurred in the rulings of the G. H. P.

He issued a dispensation for a new Chapter at Wyandotte, but properly hesitated at acceding to requests from places that did not promise healthy growth.

A very nice tribute to the worth of Grand Secretary Conover closes his interesting address, and that worthy scribe's report closely follows. In it he states that he has forwarded to the Masonic Home, Chapter contributions to the amount of $275.70, and that he has almost completed the collection of portraits of the Past Grand High Priests. He alludes to the approaching semi-centennial anniversary and suggests immediate preparation for its proper celebration.

Past Grand High Priest Spaulding for the committee reported that the act of incorporation had been secured and that Grand Chapter could now "sue and be sued."

Wyandotte, Bay City and Mackinac Companions were given their charters, and the applicants at Rochester were granted a dispensation.

A resolution was adopted :

" That the Grand Lecturer be paid the sum of five hundred dollars and mileage at three cents per mile, during the ensuing year, and that he be authorized to visit all Chapters in the Grand Jurisdiction."

The report on Correspondence was all by Comp. Conover this time. He explains it thus :

" I had hoped to have the assistance of other members of the committee in the preparation of this report, as I had in the last two years. It was arranged that R. C. Hatheway should write the report this year, but just about the time when it should have been commenced he was taken very ill, and after several months of suffering he was called away from earth.

When it was found that this Companion was not going to be able to do any of this work I turned to Companion Thomas G. Greene, who did such excellent work on the last year's report, but he gave good reason for it and then said, 'I pray thee, excuse me.' Evidently he was not *green* enough to attempt such a job again for the pay there is in it, and so I am left to go it alone, and here goes."

Then follows a most entertaining panorama of the forty-seven jurisdictions travelled. Nothing of interest is omitted and his opinions are not sacrificed to the scissors. Of course Canada did not this time come under his scrutiny, but we shall hear from Michigan's historian in due time.

Charlie Gay, Big Rapids, Grand High Priest.
Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater, Grand Secretary.

Mississippi.

Chapters, 41 ; Members, 1,388.

Biloxi was the happy spot selected by Grand Chapter for the forty-ninth annual Convocation, held on the 10th February, 1897. The Grand High Priest calls it

"This beautiful city by the Mexic Sea, the land of the cypress and vine."

A refreshing suggestion that all was not "labour" in Biloxi during this session.

His address was brief for his duties were light.

The rest and quiet which was denied him as Grand Master the year previous, he found in the exalted position of Grand High Priest:

"I have been as idle as a 'painted ship upon a painted ocean.' Not a single decision has been called for, while the few dispensations granted have been unimportant, and, best of all, white-robed Peace has spread her protecting wings over all the Chapters in this Grand Jurisdiction.

And yet as quietly, but as surely as the never-ceasing ebb and flow of the sea, Capitular Masonry has progressed within our borders. Old Chapters have taken on new interest, and three whose charters nave long been covered with the dust of non-use, will knock at the door of this Grand Chapter for re-admission."

He highly commended the "Signet of Royal Arch Masonry, a work prepared by Companions Hendricks and Speed, and according to M. E. Comp. Harrison

"Fills a long felt want in Masonry, for it will not only be of great assistance for searchers after 'light in Masonry,' but it will make the work uniform throughout the United States, for I am satisfied that its merits will compel its adoption throughout the length and breadth of our land. I heartily recommend its adoption in this jurisdiction."

It must deserve all the foregoing when it fills that ancient and aching void "a long felt want."

Eight Chapters were reported dormant by the Grand Secretary, while evidences of returning life induced him to recommend the reinstatement of two others.

Companion P. M. Savery's introduction to his sketchy report on Correspondence is an appeal to his Companions to read it, and as an inducement touches lightly on the various topics of interest dealt with by the reviewers. He notes that "almost every Grand Chapter except Mississippi has a nice reserve," but says it has been the custom for many years to expend yearly all the surplus in the treasury for "blessed charity."

Well, it might have been expended in a less noble way, but it appears to distant eyes that after the pay roll was satisfied each year there was blessed little left for "blessed charity."

Frank P. Jinkins, Aberdeen, Grand High Priest.
J. L. Power, Jackson, Grand Secretary.

Missouri.

Chapters, 97; members, 6,681.

All the Grand Officers, seventeen Past Grand High Priests, thirty-four Grand Representatives and delegates from eighty-three of the ninety-five chartered Chapters were in attendance at the fifty-first annual Convocation, held at St. Louis, April 22nd, 1897. To cover the "expenses" of these Companions a sum of $2,462.56 was appropriated.

Past Grand High Priest J. H. Spence, of Kansas, was a visitor.

M. E. Comp. Abraham's address recited in a business-like manner the story of his official acts for the year. He issued two dispensations for new Chapters and arrested the charter of that at Hamilton. His visitations included one to Orient Chapter, Kansas City, of which he says:

"This was intended to be, and was, a gala night. The officers of one of the Eastern Star Chapters of Kansas City were installed by the Grand Matron and her staff of Grand Officers, with that impressive grace and dignity which made the installation ceremonies that preceded seem commonplace and tame, indeed; but, in the elegant refreshments, which found lodgment in all the ante-rooms, we were made to feel, by the smiling sisters who served us, that there were those who compassionated us in our low estate."

Why not get the "smiling sisters" to do the installing for the poor "low estate" Companions in future and thus rise above the "commonplace and tame?" It is really sad to reflect that the Royal Arch ceremony should be retained in the old rut when so much "impressive grace and dignity" can be had for the asking.

He referred to the resolution adopted at a previous Convocation which provided that the outgoing Grand High Priest was to receive $100 jewel, and is apparently not favorable to it:

"No one would have this Grand Chapter to be parsimonious, but is not $100 a large sum to expend on this kind of ornamentation, when the Masonic Home and other meritorious charities are appealing to us as Masons to come over into Macedonia and help them?"

In connection with the proposal to establish a Sanatorium in connection with the Masonic Home, he utters a note of warning and pleads in extenuation:

"The successful management of a Sanatorium, in an institution of this kind, strikes us as being one of no ordinary magnitude, and hence the necessity of great forbearance toward the management by those of us who are largely inexperienced in affairs of this kind."

The Home is now maintaining fifty girls, thirty-one boys, nine old ladies, and eight old brothers. To support the institution the receipts were $26,657.20, the disbursements $26,705.18, and a balance in hand of $15,441. The fund for the proposed Sanatorium amounts to $9,388.35. Grand Chapter donated $500 to the latter.

O'Sullivan Chapter, number forty, memorialized Grand Chapter to be permitted to change its name to Keystone Chapter, a request that was happily complied with. Hamilton Chapter's charter was restored.

The G. H. P.'s recommendation on the presentation jewel was agreed to, as was also one to lengthen the session to two days in future instead of one.

Comp. Mayo's report on Correspondence, is, as usual, a careful compilation from which much that is instructive and entertaining can be gleaned by his Companions.

To a Delaware decision that a summons is only effective within the jurisdiction limits of a Chapter, he says:

"We disagree with the above, and hold that a summons is effective wherever received, and must be answered, if reasonably possible to do so. It is not unfrequently the case that a Companion is a member of a Chapter located in a city where he at one time resided and has removed to the jurisdiction of another Chapter. Under the foregoing ruling he would be under no obligation to answer a summons, either as a witness or in any other capacity, and we are astonished that the Grand Chapter sustained such a decision."

To a Kansas ruler who advocated heroic measures to counteract the influence of other societies, he says:

"We think the better plan will be to make the meetings interesting, secure the attendance of the members, and talk

less to the uninitiated of the business and mysteries of the Craft."

If the dear eyes of the "smiling sisters" get on to that ungallant suggestion they will positively not be along to help out future installations. There now!

Canada reached him just in time to get a place in the front of the procession, that is, if the procession was turned to the right about:

"The address of the Grand Z. occupies eighteen pages of the book before us, and like his former address is full of eloquence, brilliant ideas and good common sense."

He quotes the Grand Z. on the matter of Chapter receipts, and says:

"We infer from the foregoing that he is not so well pleased with cheap degrees as he was eighteen months since, and we are all the more confirmed in the belief that when a Chapter reduces its fees for entrance, it acknowledges its weakness, lowers its dignity, and consequently curtails its usefulness."

The printer, as usual, was evidently waxing impatient, for he disposes of us thus:

"The report of Comp. George J. Bennett on Correspondence occupies two hundred and seventeen pages of the book before us, and we most sincerely regret that its receipt on the eve of the assembling of our three Grand Bodies has prevented us from even giving it what might be called a hasty glance, but we promise him it shall be read carefully, and if we find anything in it that grates on our sensitive nerves he shall hear from us in our next.

For his kind notice in eleven pages of our Grand Chapter Proceedings for 1895 and 1896 he has our sincere thanks."

We shall be glad to hear that his nervous system has not been affected to any serious extent.

Wm. F. Kuhn, Kansas City, Grand High Priest.
Wm. H. Mayo, St. Louis, Grand Secretary.

Montana.

Chapters, 14; members, 757.

That Montana is keeping up with the procession is exhibited in the addition of two Chapters and an increase in membership of nearly a hundred. In many respects this young Grand Chapter is an example

to those ten times its age. With its fourteen Chapters only, it has enjoyed all the luxuries of the season, including a young but healthy and growing pay roll. The eighth annual Convocation was held in the city of Helena, September 14th, 1897.

M. E. Comp. Richard Wearing, Grand High Priest, welcomed the Companions and congratulated them upon the steady advance as shown by the returns. His opening is modestly penned in the first person, but when he comes to official acts he rises to the dignity of the occasion and assumes the regal "we," and he does it gracefully. "We issued our proxy." "We consulted our Grand Secretary." However it does not last long. He resumes the plebeian "I" after half a page or so when he comes to paying tribute to the labours of Montana's Hedges and to recommend the comprehensive "Signet."

Comp. Hedges is doing a great work in building up a library, and his Companions outside as well as within Montana should give him all the aid possible. The committee to whom the address and report were referred very properly eulogized his zeal and endorsed his appeal for substantial assistance.

It was hardly to be expected that the pleasant sailing which Montana had enjoyed for seven years should continue without a ripple to agitate its placid sea. It came from the Finance Committee in the nature of a recommendation which, by the way, was adopted, exhibiting the good sense of the Companions:

"Would call attention to the fact that there is no material increase in the dues paid by subordinate Chapters, and that the expenses of the Grand Chapter are on the increase. If, therefore, this Grand Body desires to increase the fund in its treasury by a small amount each year, retrenchment is imperative and seems desirable. We would therefore recommend that the standing resolution relative to per diem of members and representatives of this Grand Body be rescinded."

There is a shining example for these Grand Bodies which, with rare self-denial, struggle under a condition of chronic impecuniosity in order to provide a couple of days' outing for their representatives.

The deprivation of the per diem allowance, though

a telling blow at a time-honored American institution, had its solace in the following:

"It was voted that hereafter the duty of providing badges for the Officers, Permanent Members and Representatives to Grand Chapter be devolved upon the Grand Secretary at the charge of Grand Chapter."

And the Companions were further enabled to recognize the devotion of Grand Secretary Hedges by adding a hundred dollars to his annual stipend.

Lest it should be imagined that the delegates in attendance displayed a remarkably unusual degree of generosity, it may be added that the rescinded resolution did not apply to the present Convocation. The pay roll was there as usual.

It has been observed already that Comp Hedges is a worker. His industry is prominently displayed in the report on Correspondence, which, as usual, is all pen and no scissors. There is much abstract, no extract and a great deal of Hedges. For our part we believe that most of the reviewers can do much better than ourselves, and what they say, and do, is clothed in raiment of such superior mould and texture that we prefer to conceal our own patches and defects by mixing up with the others. Here are a few choice selections from Companion Hedges in his scissorsless review of Canada for 1896:

"The District Superintendent's reports present a rosier picture than the Most Excellent's address, but we doubt if they are as correct. It seems to be much in the nature of spasmodic life and work in the Chapter. It would be better, we think, if the work were better distributed and more substitutes were used in some part of the work. Brother Bennett's report of the condition of Capitular Masonry, a compendium and criticism of the Superintendent's reports, is much in the same vein as the address of the Grand Z, and gets under the surface of things."

He is emphatic in his opinion of the baneful effect of reducing the minimum fee:

"We think our Canadian Companions made a great mistake in reducing the minimum fees so low. They are hard to raise and what is gotten cheaply is little thought of. If any reduction is to be made we think it should be in dues rather than fees. Every Masonic body should aim to do more than pay current expenses. It should own its place of meeting and have an in-

vested relief fund. These things will be more essential in the future than ever heretofore. In days of prosperity lay aside for adversity, which will surely come to all and everybody sooner or later in one form or another. The business side of organized Masonry is quite as important as ritual and benevolence, and the best business men in the bodies should manage it so that there should be neither extravagance nor penuriousness, and always keep within the revenue, laying aside something, though small, for reserve or permanent paying investment."

He did not overlook the fact that $1,000 was voted to the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, and might have noted also that Canada has a little laid by for "a rainy day," should it ever come.

"Companion Bennett makes his second appearance at the Correspondence table with a more extended report, for it covers two volumes from several jurisdictions, as in the case of Montana. He is expert either with pen or scissors and with both makes an entertaining report. The action of his Grand Chapter in eliminating the P. M. degree has raised remonstrants in some quarters. We can see no occasion for non-intercourse with our Canadian Companions for lack of this 'honorary' degree. If any were present when there was occasion to open and work that particular degree, they might be permitted to withdraw. That's all. And no harm would ensue if they saw the usual farce enacted. Brother Bennett is a congenial spirit and the pleasure of future intercourse is anticipated."

This is as it should be, but if Companion Hedges is not accused of rank heresy by the great "thinkers" of the guild, our reputation as a prophet will suffer.

Robert Vickers, Virginia City, Grand High Priest.
Cornelius Hedges, Helena, Grand Secretary.

Nebraska.

Chapters, 52; members, 3,051.

Nebraska's thirtieth was held at Omaha, on the 16th December, 1896. Twenty-nine Chapters were represented. M. E. Charles J. Phelps, Grand High Priest, presided. His address having dealt with the departed Companions, contains the following cheering words:

"This has, indeed, been a year of grace in Nebraska. Bountiful harvests have rewarded the husbandman; plenty exists, where want was felt in the sad years of drought, and the

measure of good crops is overflowing in evidence of returning prosperity. Again the earth has yielded her increase, and 'God, even our own God,' hath blessed us."

He issued a dispensation for a new Chapter at Alliance, recorded a number of decisions of local interest, and referred incidentally to the case of Orient Chapter, which insisted upon electing a Companion to the highest office who could not qualify. The case was in the hands of a committee of Grand Chapter which recommended postponement for a year.

The committee entrusted with the securing of an act of incorporation reported progress, and submitted a number of recommendations towards that end.

M. E. Comp. G. W. Lininger invited the Companions to visit his art gallery and a resolution of thanks and appreciation was passed to him.

The Grand Council, R. & S. M., asked for a committee of conference with a view to fostering the Royal and Select Degrees, a request that was at once complied with.

Nebraska's reviewer for the past five years, Comp. Charles J. Phelps, having been exalted to the position of Grand High Priest, his seat at the reporter's table was taken "for this year only" by one of the old time reviewers, Grand Secretary W. R. Bowen, whose skilled hand has not lost its cunning.

To Comp. Long, of Indiana, he has this to say on the subject of dependent membership:

"He adjudges that dependent membership 'is a shameful proposition,' whence we conclude he is old enough a Freemason to be averse to change from the ways that are old to him, but is not old enough to adhere to the regulations that were old before his time. All that the words 'dependent membership' mean is a return to the old regulation requiring every brother to be a member of some lodge. It isn't a new theory of some visionary brother, but a revival of a law from which we have drifted because of a misinterpretation of the declaration of each candidate at the door of the Apprentice lodge, because of the influence of other so-called secret societies, and because of our much abused theory of the freedom of American citizens."

The reproduction of the text of that law and its general promulgation with explanatory notes, would do more to settle a vexed question than pages of opinion,

theory and sentiment. To the same reviewer on another well hammered topic he says:

"He thinks our Past Master's degree will never be abandoned, because few deem it of sufficient importance to call for any change in our system, and many would resist the change as being an innovation; and he prefers no change in its name, yet 'Installed Master' (proposed by the Canada reviewer) would relieve the degree from the imputation of being a misnomer, because the presiding Master has not fully passed the chair."

The report throughout is a most interesting narration and we regret that Canada did not come under his observation.

Charles C. Rittenhouse, Hastings, Grand High Priest.

William R. Bowen, Omaha, Grand Secretary.

Nevada.

Chapters, 8; members, 287.

A majority of the Chapters were represented when "the Most Excellent the Grand Chapter of the State of Nevada was opened in Ample Form," in the Masonic Hall at Elko, on the 7th June, 1897, the twenty-fourth annual Convocation, and numbering eighteen Companions good and true.

M. E. Grand High Priest Burlingame welcomed the Companions and reported his year as "exceedingly quiet."

"Owing to the nature of my employment and the geographical situation of our subordinate Chapters, I have not been able to pay them official visits; but from information received, I am able to state that peace and harmony prevail throughout the jurisdiction; that the subordinate Chapters are in a fairly prosperous condition; that, although our accessions during the year have not been large, they have equalled our losses and our membership has not diminished."

Quite an amount of comfort could, under certain conditions, be extracted from the above. He accepted an invitation to instal the officers of Lewis Chapter:

"This installation was held jointly with Carson Lodge, No. 1, F. & A. M., with a general attendance of the members of both Chapter and Lodge.

The instalation ceremonies concluded, the Chapter closed in Ample Form, an adjournment was had to the banquet room where a sumptuous repast had been prepared, the discussion of which with the post prandials incident thereto, occupied the time until the 'wee sma' hours of the morning."

Now there was something real friendly and unselfish in that Lodge and Chapter combining, "with a general attendance" and then closing "in Ample Form" to enjoy post prandials and other things. No flies on Nevada.

He recommended the recognition of New South Wales, and Grand Chapter endorsed the same.

Before closing he works in an ".ad" for the State, and it is hoped that a boom in immigration will result:

"It is true that in point of numbers our jurisdiction is a small one, and it is also true that it must so remain until the resources of our State shall become better known and appreciated.

The time is not far distant when our State, abounding as it does in every known mineral, with a climate unsurpassed by any place on earth, with its many localities adapted to agriculture and grazing, will attract the attention of the capitalist, the miner, the farmer and the searcher for a health giving climate, thus insuring such an increase in population as will enable Nevada to assume a prominent place in the sisterhood of States, and this jurisdiction to compare favorably with those of other localities."

The Committee on Finance recommended that a Correspondence report be prepared to be included with the proceedings, and Comp. A. D. Bird was requested to undertake the work and deliver the same to the Grand Secretary in time for publication with the proceedings. He did so, and if that was his first intimation of it he is—well, "he's a bird:"

"We have reviewed all Proceedings at hand; some are missing. They may have been received but we were unable to find them. As Companion Bell did not expect to make a report, Proceedings were loaned to various Companions to read."

This he says by way of conclusion to an excellent review embraced within forty-five pages. Canada for 1897 was among those that were not borrowed and he gives it a favorable notice.

Matthew Kyle, Virginia City, Grand High Priest.
C. N. Noteware, Carson City, Grand Secretary.

New Brunswick.

Chapters, 6; members, —

M. E. Comp. John Valentine Ellis was again in the chair when the ninth annual Convocation was opened in Freemason's Hall, in the city of St. John, on the 26th August, 1896. There is nothing in the proceedings to indicate the total membership.

The Grand High Priest was reminiscent in his opening:

"To me, to many of you, it must seem but the work of yesterday, and yet of those who were present on that occasion and who were in our first list of office bearers, Companions B. Lester Peters, James McNichol, T. Nisbet Robertson, and Samuel McKean have passed away, while in the present year another Companion, Edwin J. Wetmore, is enrolled among the dead. Companion Wetmore was the seconder of the resolution which in the convention of 1887 declared the establishment of a Grand Chapter in this Province desirable."

Of the condition of the Grand Chapter he said:

"Speaking generally, our receipts are equal to our expenditures, but we will be wise to husband our resources. We have made a trifling gain in membership."

He refers to his visitations, and has this to say:

"I do most sincerely hope, however, that all the office bearers of all our Chapters will use their power and their influence to prevent any innovations in the methods of conferring the degrees which will have the effect of lessening the moral influence of our symbolism upon the minds and hearts of the candidates. The appeal should be to his intellect and moral nature; not to his fear or to his sense of physical inconvenience."

The continued existence under the jurisdiction of Scotland, within the territory of New Brunswick, of Mount Lebanon Chapter, at Chatham, induces the G. H. P. to refer to a letter he had received from the Grand Scribe E. of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, who said that

"Nothing stands in the way of the existence of the most cordial friendship between the two Grand Chapters but failure on our part to admit the right of the Mount Lebanon Chapter at Chatham, which still holds of the Scottish authority, to exist within this jurisdiction."

Holding to his belief in the sovereignty of his Grand Chapter, the G. H. P. adds:

"In order, if possible, to have the matter settled, I recently made a visit to the Mount Lebanon Chapter. The Companions called a special meeting in order to meet me, and received me in the true Masonic spirit, and we thoroughly discussed the whole situation. I think I was able to relieve some natural misapprehensions which existed upon their minds in regard to the general question, and we talked over the matter, and parted with expressions of good will. I will make no predictions, but I am confident that before this year expires we shall have the full assistance and co-operation of our Chatham Companions, and the attendance of their representatives at our next annual Convocation."

A consummation devoutly to be wished.

The Treasurer's statement closed with a balance on hand of $151.58.

E. Comp. Robert Marshall gave notice of the following resolution:

"*Whereas*, The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Brunswick, organized A. D. 1887, adopted the system of Capitular Ritual which obtains in the United States of America; and therefore in the year A. D. 1892, deemed it necessary to revive the Grand Council of the Order of High Priesthood, which Order of High Priesthood was originally organized in the City of St. John in the year A. D. 1864; and

Whereas, The said Order is now an integral part of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter, as will more fully appear, by reference to the proceedings of Grand Royal Arch Chapter; therefore

Resolved, That present and past Presidents, Senior Vice-Presidents and Junior Vice-Presidents of the Grand Council of the Order of High Priesthood of the Province of New Brunswick hold the rank in Grand Chapter of 'Right Excellent.'"

John V. Ellis, St. John, Grand High Priest.
F. W. Wisdom, St. John, Grand Secretary.

New Jersey.

Chapters, 38; members, 3,304.

Companions John W. Palmer, Deputy Grand High Priest; J. Harris Balston, Grand Scribe; John W. Ferrier, Grand Royal Arch Captain; Adolph Muehsam. Grand Master Third Veil; George E. W. Stivers, Past Grand High Priest; George B. Edwards, Grand Rep-

resentative, and Companion William N. Carmichael, all of the Grand Chapter of New York, were among the distinguished visitors welcomed by Grand High Priest H. G. Wagoner, to the forty-first annual Convocation, held at Trenton, on 12th May, 1897.

The G. H. P.'s address was a thoughtfully prepared document, and at once disclosed the pleasing fact that he was ever mindful of his trust.

The requests of Chapters to occupy apartments which were reported, by the examining officer, as unsuited for the purpose, drew from him sentiments of strong protest and admonition.

Numerous cases of application for waiver of jurisdiction were in every case acceded to.

The unpleasantness in Scott Chapter, arising from the High Priest's retention of the charter, and referred to in a previous report, was happily adjusted, the G. H. P. taking a personal interest in the settlement.

Another source of trouble was a division in Clinton Chapter, the membership of which embraced a large delegation from Flemington, an adjacent town. The latter agitated a removal of the Chapter from Clinton to their own domicile, and failing to receive the vote, the High Priest and Secretary, both Flemingtonians, carted away the charter and records. The Grand High Priest, learning that the Flemington Companions persistently stayed away from the stated Convocations, which were rendered abortive by the absence of the charter, journeyed to that place, sought out the High Priest and secured the warrant. He further deposed that officer. At the next election there was a grand rally of Flemingtonians and the deposed High Priest was re-elected. The Grand High Priest, of course, voided the election, and at the next Convocation a Clinton Companion secured command. The defection of the discontented Companions, however, weakened the Chapter. Notwithstanding all this the G. H. P. closes the case thus:

"I am under the impression that the High Priest was the victim of undue influence and bad advice, 'more sinned against than sinning,' and bespeak all the leniency in his behalf consistent with the sublime principles of our Royal Art."

Charitable, to say the least. The Committee on Constitutions which had charge of the case was equally charitable. Its report severely condemned the action of the High Priest as a violation of his solemn pledges, but

"Your Committee therefore recommends that under the circumstances this Grand Chapter, beyond censuring the Companion referred to, do not at this time take any further action in the case."

A recommendation of the G. H. P. that the names of all members of subordinate Chapters be printed next year with the proceedings, and thereafter every five years, was endorsed. Having in view the unpleasant episodes with which he had to deal he comments thus:

"Unfortunately it is, for the good of our Order, that many drones exist in the hive of Capitular Masonry. From curiosity it must be that they are anxious to be Royal Arch Masons. After receiving the degrees, they seem to degenerate into mere 'figure-heads,' pay their dues, are members in good standing, apparently are proud of the name of Royal Arch Mason, but let others do all the work. They are too indolent to learn enough of its mysteries to ever discover its beauties.

There is another class, however, far more injurious to the fraternity. but fortunately they are not very numerous. I refer to those malcontents too often found in the Order who frequently are not fitted, either by possessing a knowledge of our rites, or by that spirit of kindness and condescension which should characterize all Masons, to rule, yet when they are not permitted to rule, seek the ruin of the particular body with which they are connected.

I cannot understand how officers of a Chapter, after taking the obligation of office and being duly installed, can voluntarily absent themselves from the stated Convocations of their Chapter without violating the obligation they have assumed to perform all the duties appertaining to that office to the best of their abilities. This, Companions, is indeed a serious matter, to treat an assumed obligation as a farce.

In the selection of material for our Mystic Temple, investigating committees cannot exercise too much care in the discharge of their duties before making their report. While the external qualifications of the candidate should be strictly regarded, yet the internal should by no means be ignored. We want and need members who are interested in the Capitular work; those willing to make some sacrifices to advance its interests; those who will forego the pleasures of society, the opera and the club at least twice each month to meet with the Companions, and by their presence and assistance encourage

those who bear 'the burden and heat of the day.' They may find this a more 'mountainous route,' but 'pleasanter,' and they will be rewarded by finding more to nourish and sustain."

The record of visitations by the Grand Officers was a most praiseworthy one, and it is difficult to understand how in a jurisdiction so admirably inspected and advised there should be even a shadow of trouble. The "Home" germ apparently found congenial soil in New Jersey:

"Companion Josiah W. Ewan, Deputy Grand Master, was admitted and received with the honors of Royal Arch Masonry. The welcome extended to him occasioned a response in which the Companion referred to the fraternal relations between Symbolic and Capitular Masonry. He presented the subject of the movement just inaugurated to provide a Masonic Home in this jurisdiction. The spontaneous action of the Grand Chapter was to order a Warrant for the sum of two hundred dollars as a donation to the cause."

We again salute Companion Geo. B. Edwards, the versatile Grand Secretary, who presents the Correspondence report, and a capital one it is. Reviewing Canada for 1896, he says:

"No effort was made to conceal, but there was a plain presentation of facts and inductions made by Companion J. Ross Robertson, Grand Z., in his address to the constituents of the Grand Chapter of Canada."

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"The address is an elaborate document, covering all the interests involved, and the name of the Companion appended thereto is misspelled. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*"

Of his valuable time and space he generously contributes to the reviewer:

"Companion George J. Bennett was the author of the Correspondence report, which covered over two hundred pages. It starts with the expression of 'earnest hope that it will prove a means of entertainment and instruction.'

The elimination of the Past Master's degree from the Capitular system of Canada is engaging the attention of the Craft in more or less degree. It will place the more modernized Canadian Companions visiting in the United States in the same relations as stand the Companions hailing from England and other countries that have not obtained the American degrees immediately preceding that of the Royal Arch. It is by no means an improbability that Canadian Craftsmen, without the

pre-requisite degree of Past Master, may find it to their advantage to receive in the United States that which they reject in the Dominion, if not for their edification at least for their interests. *Nous verrons.*"

So far as Canada is concerned we *have* seen. There is no desire to rediscuss the matter, but would just say that our remarks applied only to those who argued that "the elimination" was a final exclusion of the Canadian Companion from an American Chapter. The fact of the pre-requisite being obligatory in the latter, was not for a moment overlooked. Comp. Edwards puts the case exactly as it was regarded by this Grand Chapter prior to action being taken.

To our remarks on his application of the word "contortion" to the request of R. A. Masons to wear Masonic clothing in public, he humorously replies:

"If there is anything the Capitular molecule of New Jersey, who writes these reports, has pride in, it is in the non-personal acquirement of vanity. As a consequence the use of a mirror is confined merely to the buttoning on his collar in the morning, and it is probable that from this abstention he was led to make use of the words 'Masonic contortion' without reflection. *Stet.*"

The Indiana reviewer having enthusiastically dubbed the female organization known as the Eastern Star, and tolerated in some of the States, as "this most useful and interesting department of Masonry," Companion Edwards stays with him long enough to relieve his feelings:

"Does not this denomination beg the whole question as to the status of this Order? It could scarcely be a department of Masonry except it were a part of the whole. The reviewer of New Jersey last year met in Missouri with the avouchment of an eminent Mason that a certain lady, prominent in the Eastern Star Order, was a Mason. This year, if the record is correct, in the 'land of the Dakotas, the land of handsome women,' the tiled precincts of a Grand Chapter were invaded by a body of Sisters of the Eastern Star. What will ensue?"

Where occasion offers he gently but firmly reproves on the same subject, especially on North Dakota's break, where he reminds the Companions that "the tiled precincts of Royal Arch Masonry had

been invaded and that they were consenting parties to the act."

> "I am ashamed that women are so simple,
> To offer war, where they should kneel for peace;
> Or seek for rule, supremacy and sway,
> When they are bound to serve, love and obey."

Anthony Schoder, Woodbridge, Grand High Priest.

Geo. B. Edwards, Jersey City, Grand Secretary.

New York.

Chapters, 188; members, 19,898.

Excellent portraits of Grand High Priest Geo. E. W. Stivers, Grand Secretary Christopher G. Fox, and Grand Lecturer Geo. McGowan, contribute to make the large and handsome volume of proceedings for 1897 valuable indeed. It is, as usual, a most complete and comprehensive compilation and reflects the highest credit on all concerned. It embraces the transactions of the one hundreth annual Convocation, held in the capital of the Empire State, on the 2nd of February, 1897, and at which one hundred and eighty-three of one hundred and eighty-seven of the enrolled constituent Chapters were represented by two hundred and eighty-two delegates. Twenty-eight Representatives of other Grand Chapters were present.

Grand High Priest Stivers delivered an admirable address:

"Almost one hundred years ago a number of faithful Craftsmen met in this city and instituted this Grand Chapter, and like the great strong oak which from little acorns grow, it has grown and flourished, and now, after the lapse of these many years, this noble tree of ours, strong in body, with its one hundred and eighty-seven branches, from which have sprouted twenty thousand leaves, is spreading its benign influence almost everywhere in our great State.

The founders of this body builded better than they knew, conspicuous among whom was DeWitt Clinton, the gentleman and scholar, its first Grand High Priest, whose subsequent career as a statesman added lustre to his name—a beloved Companion, whose memory will always be honored and revered by the Royal Craft."

As a visitor he made a distinguished record. He accomplished fifty-six official, and forty-two informal, visits. Two more and he would have completed the century. What an example to others. Yet he was not wholly satisfied with this achievement:

"I wish I could have visited every Chapter in the State, but to do this is practically an impossibility, and even though one could give his entire time to the work, it could not, in one year, be accomplished, as man's strength and endurance can only withstand a certain amount of expenditure. The number of miles of travel would be many thousands, and even during the past year I was warned that I was taxing not only my own strength, but that of the faithful and loyal members of my staff. Yet the cause was just, and the encouragement so sincere, and the desire of our Companions so urgent, that we continued till the end. I trust this visiting will continue, and that within a short time it can be said that every Chapter has been visited by a Grand High Priest."

He also visited the Grand Chapters of Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Jersey, and on invitation visited Union Chapter, at Newark, New Jersey. He issued a dispensation for a new Grand Chapter at Altamont, and personally inspected its working. He recommended a charter and it was issued.

The municipal boundary having been extended by the creation of Greater New York, he was asked to define the capitular limitation but prudently decided to refer the matter to Grand Chapter. In connection therewith he comments on "the evil effect which often results in respect of the claims of jurisdiction that by our laws, Chapters have over candidates within their boundaries," and his words deserve serious consideration elsewhere than in New York State.

"My attention has been repeatedly called to this where refusals of waiver of jurisdiction have been made for un-Masonic reasons, but generally from avaricious motives, involving merely the amount of money that the candidate may have to pay. Chapters having a claim upon the candidate often take his money and confer the degrees, and are then content to have him withdraw and affiliate with some Chapter more to his liking. In this they are not actuated by the true spirit of Masonry.

I hold that every one who wishes to become a Royal Arch Mason should have the right to receive the favor in any Chapter that would accept his petition, and in which he would,

in his judgment, be most happy as a member of our Craft ; in that body where his personal affiliations are, and thus pleasantly situated become a better and more useful Mason.

Under our present law candidates for the degrees are compelled to apply to the Chapter in whose jurisdiction they reside, otherwise unless such jurisdiction is released they can not become Royal Arch Masons. The arbitrariness is harmful to the best interests and welfare of our Craft, and as a consequence we often lose those who would be useful and honorable members of our Capitular family."

He refers to the reception given by Pyramid Lodge to R.W. Bro. W. J. McDonald, Grand Treasurer, who is Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, and to which the Grand Chapter officers were invited, as such and clothed as such :

" It certainly was a graceful compliment to the Royal Craft that we, in the garb of and as Royal Arch Masons, were invited to be with our brethren in their tiled Lodge.

R. W. Bro. and Comp. Ehlers, in the course of his remarks on the occasion said it was the most unique and diversified assembly of Masons he had ever attended, and he doubted if any other of our representative Masons could have gathered such a galaxy."

That it was "unique" and also "diversified" will not for a moment be denied, but, unusual as it undoubtedly was, it certainly seemed fitting and appropriate and might with advantage to the Royal Craft be copied elsewhere, although there are many who would, and doubtless will, class it as an innovation.

In commending the Correspondence report to the Companions, the G. H. P. dwells on the importance of the Royal Arch. He quotes the Past Grand Z. of Canada, M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, on the same subject :

" Words of wisdom and truth, which I wish to be echoed and re-echoed throughout this broad land, fittingly and forcibly express my feelings relative to the Royal Arch."

The report of Grand Secretary Fox was a document teeming with information and statistics. By it, it is gathered that the membership of the jurisdiction was increased by 482.

Grand Lecturer McGown's report was equally interesting and fully disclosed the condition of the ceremonial working of the Chapters.

Fifty-nine Companions of Gloversville again petitioned for a charter, but not having the consent of the nearest Chapter, the petition was denied.

The Committee on the centennial celebration recommended that it be held in Albany next February with the usual elaborate accompaniments of music, feast and oratory, and that a commemorative medal be struck in honor of the event.

"Comp. Edward B. Cantine presented the Grand Chapter, with the compliments of the composer, a piece of music entitled the Royal Arch Masons' Grand March, dedicated to the Grand Chapter of the State of New York, in honor of its one hundredth annual Convocation, by Companion Frederick W. Mills, of Capital City Chapter, No. 242, and the same was accepted with thanks and adopted as the official Grand March of this Grand Chapter."

There was nothing before the Grievances Committee, a fact that speaks volumes for this large jurisdiction.

The pay roll for this Convocation totalled $4,711.28, and according to the Finance Committee's report the cost of printing the proceedings is cut down some three hundred dollars, to meet which the Correspondence report is to be restricted to fifty pages. This will come as a shock to those who have annually looked for Comp. Gardner's voluminous and splendid report. It is utterly impossible for him to do justice to the work thus handicapped, and certainly Grand Chapter neither did justice to its reporter nor to itself when it permitted such a resolution to pass unprotested. It was an action altogether unworthy of that great body and one which it will regret.

A sum of three hundred dollars was set apart for carrying out of the centennial celebration, and $1000 to defray the expenses of representatives to the General Grand Chapter.

Rev. James Byron Murray, Grand Chaplain, delivered an eloquent address on "The Genius of Masonry."

In a report of nearly 250 pages, Comp. George J. Gardner gives us a grand moving picture of the Capitular world, and as we gaze surprise is uppermost that his Companions could be so short sighted as to stay his facile pen and thus deprive themselves and others of what was best described by himself:

"We have spread our table and furnished it with the choicest of food, not for the stomach, but for the brain, and ask you to partake thereof bountifully. To the literary epicure, a banquet is here furnished, in which he can indulge to a surfeit. It is no Barmecidian feast of imaginary viands, but a banquet fit for a literary Lucullus, the product of cultivated minds, and the outcome of years of laborious study and wearisome toil. 'Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest it,' and it will aid you in your search for further light in Masonry, and enable you to spend many an hour profitably in that which may not possibly 'put money into thy purse,' but will put knowledge into thy brain."

Indiana's action in clipping its talented reporter's wings is thus commented on by Comp. Gardner, who is now more cruelly mutilated than even Comp. Long:

"We regret to see that by action of the Grand Chapter, under the plea of reducing printing expenses, the report hereafter is to be shorn about one-half—that action limiting the bulk to one hundred pages. Is this the result of a wise deliberation, or is it a spasmodic thrill of retrenchment? It strikes us that economy might spring up from some other quarter rather than from this. However, it is none of our funeral; but there is always a method of 'whipping the devil around the stump,' and we would suggest to the M.·. E.·. writer, that he use finer type and unleaded matter,—adopt any plan rather than deprive us of such valuable instructive reading."

"However, it is none of our funeral." Alas, who knows what a day may bring forth. His suggestion is a good one, but how Comp. Gardner is going to "whip the devil around the stump," circumscribed as he is to fifty pages, is more than an ordinary understanding can grasp.

> "His promises were, as he then was, mighty,
> But his performance, as he now is, nothing."

We have had occasion to remark on Michigan's treatment of Companions in arrears of dues, and its clause, Edict XV, of the legal code which applies to that "offence." Here is what Comp. Gardner says of it:

"Poverty is no crime, and why a penalty, the most severe known in the Masonic legal code, should be meted out to one who is so unfortunate as to be deprived of this world's goods sufficient to meet a pecuniary obligation entered into, perhaps while he was in affluence, or at least in moderate circumstances, and be placed in the position of a criminal before the Masonic

world, is, to say the least, the acme of inhumanity. To be brought up and arraigned as a *criminal* for not performing an impossibility, and through no fault of his own, is a principle which we can never endorse. If this be Masonry, then we must admit that for more than forty years we have been groping in darkness and ignorance as to what Masonry is. The sooner Edict XV. is expunged from the records of the Grand Chapter of Michigan, the sooner will justice be done to some worthy brother suffering under its unjust ban."

John Webb, Jr., Gouverneur, Grand High Priest.
Chris. G. Fox, Buffalo, Grand Secretary.

North Carolina.

Chapters, 36; members, 765.

Next year Grand Chapter will celebrate its semi-centennial with becoming ceremony. This will be a great opportunity for infusing the "elixir" into those of its subordinates which have been "shrouded for so many years but are yet unburied." It is not an easy matter to arrive at the number of Chapters or the total membership. The statistical tables do not harmonize with the reports. One table gives 26 Chapters, another 21, while the Grand Secretary's statement makes the number 23, of which eight failed to make returns. He reports there are many Chapters yet dormant, "none having responded to our proposition of last year but Doric, No. 32."

In the latter case a dispensation to "revive" was granted, and in this connection it was cheerily announced that "all of the old officers were living except two of the Masters of the Veils."

Grand High Priest Liddell was in no wise depressed when at Wilmington, on the 11th May, 1897, he addressed the forty-ninth annual Convocation:

"Masonically, this is the beginning of a gala week, and I know of no place where we could have enjoyed ourselves more than in our city by the sea.

A man that does not love Wilmington and her citizens, has never been here; I have and can therefore congratulate you."

He observed that only one visit, and that to his own Chapter, was made by his predecessor, and that the appointments made by the latter for official visita-

tion by Grand officers came to nought. That a similar record should not be his, he made no appointments, as there was no provision for "expenses," but he succeeded in himself visiting four of the Chapters. If these visits did no good to the Chapters they certainly appear to have had a beneficial effect on the G. H. P. At one he was "royally entertained." There was a "delightful banquet" at another, and at a third he came up "to help aid and assist in doing justice to a Martin county barbecue, without hope of fee or reward."

> "Serenely full, the epicure would say,
> Fate cannot harm me, I have dined to-day."

It must have been a joyous occasion. The remembrance of it clings:

"I can never again visit this Chapter in an official capacity, but as a Companion Royal Arch Mason, I shall do so if God spares my life."

One of his decisions, sustained by the Jurisprudence Committee, indicates that dependent membership is not favored in North Carolina:

"There is nothing in the law of either the Grand Chapter or the General Grand Chapter, that compels a Companion to retain his membership in the Blue Lodge."

In this jurisdiction they have a regulation to the effect that an officer in Grand Chapter cannot hold office in a private Chapter. The G. H. P. thus exposes its defects, but the Jurisprudence Committee failed to see the matter through the same glasses:

"I was naturally enough flattered by being taken from the floor one year ago and exalted to the highest office in the gift of this Grand Chapter, but as much as I appreciate the honor, I am bound to say that could I have foreseen what I now know, I would have declined the office. I had just been elected High Priest of my Chapter, and when I became Grand High Priest it was left without a head, and the results have been baneful."

* * * * * * * *

"I don't want to be thought egotistical for having cited myself among the others when I say, that it is too bad that the laws of this Grand Chapter should handicap the effectiveness of the Subordinate Chapters under its jurisdiction, and I therefore strongly recommend that the necessary steps for remedying this evil be taken at this Convocation."

Generously the Companions, in the previous year, voted a sum of $150 to be applied to the education of an orphan girl, an inmate of the Oxford Asylum. The Grand High Priest refers to the incident:

"This was truly commendable and worthy of this Grand Chapter, but we let our generous impulses carry us too far, and we must not make the same mistake again. The revenue of the Grand Chapter is not much in excess of its legitimate expenses, and I therefore, or rather suggest, that the amount required for this purpose for this year be raised by private subscription among the Companions here present, and that the money be turned over to the treasurer of this Grand Chapter to be paid out by him as needed."

He closes with a tribute to the Grand Secretary:

"My admiration for him has long since become affection, and I want to say that the man who knows Horace H. Munson and does not love him must be a monstrosity."

Rather than be regarded as such we are prepared to assert right here that if the opportunity comes our way it will be a case of

"I know not, I ask not, if guilt's in that heart,
I but know that I love thee whatever thou art."

Two Chapters U. D. received their charters, and on the shoulders of the devoted Grand Secretary was placed the responsibility of dealing with the dormant Chapters.

The report on Correspondence by Comp. Southgate embraced in 123 pages, is a labor of love to him and an enjoyable treat for his Companions. Under Canada, referring to the Grand Z's (1897) address he says:

"He was not idle in the administration of the affairs of his Grand Chapter. This is the Grand Officer to whom we referred in our report last year as worthy of emulation. He reminds one of a Methodist Bishop of 'ye olden time,' who traversed State after State in visiting churches and parishes, which lay almost beyond the pale of civilization. He does much visitation, but compliments only in such cases where deserved."

With Canada's methods of Chapter inspection he is impressed:

"By the system of Grand Superintendents nearly every Chapter in Canada is visited each year, and the results for good

are amazing, as indicated by the reports handed in by these faithful officers."

He is kind enough to mention our second effort and say a good word for it.

William A. Withers, Raleigh, Grand High Priest.
Horace H. Munson, Wilmington, Grand Secretary.

North Dakota.

Chapters, 13; members, 813.

Portraits of Grand High Priest A. B. Herrick, and his predecessor, Comp. T. F. Branch, are included with the printed proceedings recording the eighth annual Convocation, held at Fargo, June 10th, 1897. The former, who, by the way, hints that he is about to leave the State, welcomed the Companions, and, expressing pride in the stability of the Craft in this young jurisdiction, grew retrospective:

"Not many years ago, our land was seamed by buffalo trails, as they roamed in thousands over our boundless plains; then came the first seekers after homes. Let us look at them, and see what material they were for a Masonic Order. The settler pre-empts his land; the law requires that his witnesses swear he has a window in his shanty, and accordingly a window frame is hung up somewhere. Another settler reads that his house must be 'twelve by fourteen.' Accordingly he whittles out a house, and swears it *is* twelve by fourteen, but omits to state that it is inches instead of feet. Then the house on wheels came, so that when a few hundred settlers had 'proved up' our broad land was as destitute of families as my head is of its rightful covering. Our first settlers in their oaths of fulfilment, or pre-emption laws, acted in accordance with the old Spanish proverb: 'Oaths are words, and words are wind.' But the men who came later wished to better themselves. They loved the prairie for its broadness, its fertility, its vast resources, as well as the sun which a cloud scarcely obscures, and which, at eventide, ends in such glorious sunsets. They were men of education and of honor, and after a few years of toil brought their families or brides, from the east. Their numbers were few, and each addition was welcomed, helped and encouraged. With this good will throughout Dakota is it any wonder that Masonry has spread to such an extent? Men were lonely and sought for friendship, love and sympathy, and gladly gave the same in return. These are true Masonic principles, and out of which our Order has gained a standing which it could not have gained in a more thickly settled state in so short a time."

The Grand Secretary reported a net increase in the membership of fifteen. He has been indefatigable in the preparation of a "Grand Chapter Membership Register," which seems to be a formidable undertaking, as the system was adopted in 1895 and is still unfinished. Last year it cost $105.40. The plan includes "cards" and "trays" and other things equally perplexing. We have not yet observed anything about "flushes" or "pairs," and hence an early suspicion has been dissolved. If the Grand Secretary's statement of his labors is clear to the North Dakotans, everybody else must be satisfied:

"In 1895, this system of keeping the register of members was adopted by this Grand Chapter for the Grand and Subordinate Chapters. No doubt, during the year, I shall be able to furnish some of the Chapters with duplicate cards of their register as appears from the Grand Register; and, unless I am otherwise instructed, I shall charge each Chapter for the cards, printing, transcribing and comparing, six cents each in addition to the cost of the tray for holding same. This is one cent more than amount given for furnishing cards to subordinate Lodges. The increase is because of a larger amount of information which is required on the Chapter cards, and this price will just about cover cost. The tray will cost between four and five dollars. I am in correspondence relative to furnishing these trays in large numbers for all of the Grand Bodies, and by getting a large quantity we can obtain them at a less price than for single trays."

The Treasury contains $931.20, "with no debts except $75 for a G. H. P. jewel."

Missouri Chapter, No. 1, at Bismarck, and Mandon Chapter, No. 10, at Mandon, petitioned to be consolidated under the former name and number, and to be located at the latter place.

The Finance Committee recommendation that a fine of $5.00 be imposed on each Chapter failing to send in its report and monies one month prior to Grand Chapter meeting, was adopted.

There was very little business before Grand Chapter, and to render the meeting less interesting the beautiful "Star" failed to brighten up the Convocation.

"The desire of the moth for the star,
Of the night for the morrow;
The devotion to something afar,
From the sphere of our sorrow."

David E. Morgan, Devil's Lake, Grand High Priest.
Frank J. Thompson, Fargo, Grand Secretary.

Nova Scotia.

Chapters, 14; members, 728.

The city of Halifax was honored with the twenty-seventh annual Convocation on the 9th June, 1896, the M. E. Grand High Priest, Simon W. Crabbe, presiding. His address was brief and of local interest. Most of the Chapters he visited and reports on each. He commissioned Companion Rushland to visit the sick Chapter at Liverpool, but the encouragement from that place was of so chilling a nature that the journey was abandoned.

Later a committee of three was appointed to visit Rossignol Chapter, Liverpool, and to either arrest the charter or prevail upon the Companions to resume work.

A pleasant report was received of the Shannon Chapter in Newfoundland, which now boasts a membership of one hundred and one, with a good treasury and a comfortable home. Thirty-three Convocations were held during the year.

The Chapter in Cape Breton was also favorably reported upon.

Grand Secretary Ross reported "a very large amount of work having been done in the subordinate Chapters during the year."

The usual invitation from Grand Lodge to accompany that body to church on the following day was received and accepted by Grand Chapter, which was closed with a balance of $418 in the Treasurer's hands.

Early in the following October a circular was issued by Grand High Priest Campbell, announcing that owing to the serious illness of Grand Secretary Alex. Ross, he had appointed E. Comp. R. W. David Neish to perform the duties pro tem.

1897.

Grand Chapter again met at Halifax, on the 8th June, 1897, and Grand High Priest Campbell was enabled to congratulate that body upon "continued

prosperity," largely owing to the activity and zeal displayed by himself and predecessor in office. Every Chapter in the jurisdiction was visited by the G. H. P. or his appointed deputy, and their reports were most gratifying.

The committee appointed in the previous year to visit Rossignol Chapter, at Liverpool, was successful in resucitating that debilitated subordinate, and the G. H. P. visited it some months later. Its returns for the first time since 1892 were reported to be in the Grand Secretary's hands, and Grand Chapter later remitted dues from 1892 to 1895.

Grand Secretary Ross, whose illness was announced by circular in October, was not in his place and the Grand High Priest conveyed the sad news that he had been stricken by paralysis and that the prospect of recovery was remote.

Reflecting upon the prevalence of allowing dues to accumulate against the names of Companions, the G. H. P. said:

"This is a disease which is sapping the life blood out of the majority of our subordinate Chapters. It is beyond my comprehension why Companions who would scorn to owe a private debt will allow their dues to the Chapter to go on month after month and year after year, never paying the slightest attention to the demands made upon them. I would strongly urge upon Chapters in every case where a Companion is able to pay, and will not, to enforce the by-laws."

The Board of General Purposes was instructed to correspond with the various Grand Chapters in the United States on the question of substitutes, and the same Companions were also instructed to report at next meeting on the proper regalia to be worn by Grand Chapter and subordinate Chapters.

Donald Darrach, M. D., Kensington, P. E. I., Grand High Priest.

D. H. Campbell, Halifax, N. S., Grand Secretary.

Ohio.

Chapters, 149; members, 14,646.

Sandusky offered a most fraternal welcome to Grand Chapter when its eighteenth annual Convocation opened in that city on the 7th October, 1896. Grand Secretary High Priest Jacob H. Bromwell, whose expressive countenance beams out from the frontispiece, is a Mason with a name familiar in Craft circles; and who as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge had made a record. He submitted a characteristic address. As a visitor he confessed to be faulty owing to "cares and duties of an active business and Masonic life," but diffidently hoped his successor would be alive to "the duties which he will owe to the subordinate Chapters."

He refers to the recent dedication of the Ohio Masonic Home:

"When it is remembered that this great charity had its origin in the action of the Grand Chapter recommending the appointment of committees of conference for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing a Home, the completion and dedication of the structure, which was the outcome of that action, was a matter of sincere congratulation to every Royal Arch Mason present. This Grand Body has been one of the most earnest and active contributors to the funds which were required, and has made permanent provision for an annual contribution which devotes something over $3,000 each year from the Grand Chapter treasury for its maintenance."

Jewels were procured for Past Grand High Priests not hitherto in possession of such. He reported that the decoration presented M. E. Comp. Robinson was shortly afterwards, with other articles of course, coveted by a burglar, and diligent search failed to discover any trace of it. Grand Chapter generously decided on duplicating the gift.

At last Convocation a dispensation for a new Chapter was granted to Companions at Mechanicsburg, whereupon a Chapter at North Lewisburg protested, claiming the territory, and, stating that they never had been consulted in the matter. An extensive correspondence and much poring into legal tomes ensued, the G. H. P. deciding, wisely, to leave it to Grand Chapter, its right to take the action it did being involved in the controversy.

LaGrange Chapter, which had held out against the tax for the Masonic Home, rather than be arraigned on a charge of contempt for authority paid up its arrearages, $105.50.

The recording of Marks, or rather the failure to record, elicits comment from the G. H. P. much on the lines that Grand Chapters rulers have employed for years. It is feared that the observance of this system will ever be spasmodic.

He records the peculiar case of a High Priest being suspended in both his Lodge and Chapter for non-payment of dues. Did he suspend himself or was he suspended before his elevation to the chief office? He however paid up when he heard from the G. H. P. what was in store for him.

He declined to allow a Chapter room to be used by the organization known as the Eastern Star, as it was not Masonic.

That "gentle" influence was about the lobby is observed in the passage later of the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter are authorized to have joint occupancy of halls with all bodies with which the Grand Lodge permits its subordinates to hold such occupancy."

An artificial limb, he decided, was not a barrier to application for Chapter degrees. He also decided that a claim for fees due by reason of an infringement of jurisdiction which occurred thirteen years previously should be Masonically outlawed.

The Jurisprudence Committee held that the constitution had been violated in the granting of a dispensation to the Companions of Mechanicsburg:

"But, in view of the fact that the Companions at Mechanicsburg have acted in good faith, believing that they were acting under legal authority, and have conferred the Chapter degrees on a number of candidates, we recommend that upon their securing the consent of Star Chapter the Grand High Priest renew the dispensation."

The request for recognition from the Grand Mark Lodge of New South Wales was declined for obvious reasons.

As a prelude to his admirable Correspondence report, the talented reviewer, Companion S. Stacker Williams, continues his historical remarks touching the existence of the Royal Arch degree in America prior to the formation of Grand Chapters. Would that we could reproduce it.

Nearly six pages he gives to Canada for 1895. He quotes and extols the Grand Z. and dwells at length on the Victorian settlement, and expresses a hope that the two Scottish Chapters in British Columbia will give their allegiance to Canada.

He extends a fraternal hand to the new reporter, and encouragingly overstays his visit beyond the usual time. Our remarks on the Past Master he reproduces and is apparently in accord with them to some extent. On the Victorian question he alludes to certain "punctures" of a "tender spot." Well, except we were afflicted with "wheels" we confess ignorance of such cruelty, nor was there a desire or intent to be flippant. We fear our good Companion did not interpret us aright, due no doubt to the undiplomatic method of putting the matter.

Companion Williams may remember that to the Tennesseean reviewer, who claimed that there were half a dozen correspondents who with himself were willing "to expel the P. M. intruder," he had responded, "He may count us in making up his half dozen."

But because it is a law of General Grand Chapter that it must be a pre-requisite, it is "dutifully submitted" to. By that law the degree, admittedly an intrusion and thereby repugnant, is forced upon a visiting R. A. Mason whose only desire is to visit a R. A. Chapter. It is that law which Comp. Williams would willingly amend, that we find fault with, not the "dutiful submission" to it, which of course must be observed by law-abiding Masons:

"Times without number, English Companions have visited Chapters in the United States, no objection on their part being made to our requirement, or rather to the compliment we pay them by obligating them in degrees they have not received, thereby enabling them, without further qualifications, to visit Chapters anywhere in our country, and even in Canada."

True, but does not Comp. Williams clothe that argument in questionable garb? "The compliment we pay them by obligating them" in a degree that he admits himself he would willingly oust. We are as sure that an English visitor to an Ohio Chapter would not be treated otherwise than with fraternal courtesy and hospitality as we are; that any visitor under such circumstances would voice an objection to the sugar coated pill which the General Grand has prepared for him. Companion Williams in concluding propounds the following:

"Should an English Companion, who is not in possession of all of the degrees conferred in Canada, apply to Companion Bennett's Chapter for the privilege of visiting, we would ask him whether he would be snubbed, fumigated (to use his language), or permitted to visit and witness the conferring of certain degrees without qualifications?"

Certainly, as a Royal Arch Companion he would be proved, and if found worthy, admitted to a Royal Arch Chapter and permitted to witness everything pertaining to that degree, and, unless he possessed that of Mark Master, as most English R. A. Masons do, to that degree only.

"We will ask further, whether he would be permitted to visit the Chapter, even though it did not upon such occasion open on any degree but that of the Royal Arch?"

Yes, if it was to open on any inferior degree of which he had no knowledge his admission of course would be denied, nor would he expect it. The acceptance of those degrees would only become imperative upon his application to affiliate. In this connection we would ask our esteemed Companion to peruse a few remarks addressed to Companion Drummond of Maine. Further, it is our desire that he read us twice before arriving at a decision. If he could but once gaze upon our bald pate and look into eyes curtained by the most benevolent of spectacles, he would never again accuse us of going about with a pointed barb on the hunt for "tender spots."

Geo. D. McBride, Gallipolis, Grand High Priest.
Charles C. Keifer, Urbana, Grand Secretary.

1897.

Springfield was favored with the eighty-first annual Convocation which Grand High Priest Geo. D. McBride declared open in Ample Form at ten o'clock, a. m., September 29, 1897. Deputy General Grand High Priest R. C. Lemmon was introduced and given a loyal welcome.

Past Grand High Priests Harvey Vinal and J. B. Hovey, Grand Chaplain Rev. T. J. Melish, and Grand Guard Jacob Randall, were among those claimed by death since the previous Convocation.

One of the Grand High Priest's visitations was to the installation of officers at Fort Meig's Chapter, where "a beautiful solo, 'The Holy City,' was excellently rendered by Mrs. W. W. Ainsworth."

He demurred to the naming of a new Chapter at Cleveland in honor of a living Companion, one of the petitioners, and they subsequently changed it. There were two other applications for dispensations, one from Paulding and one from Cadiz.

He reported no settlement of the difficulty with reference to the newly formed Chapter at Mechanicsburg, the consent of the objecting Chapter being steadily withheld. The committee subsequently recommended that the property acquired by the former be returned to Grand Chapter.

The report of the Masonic Home was an interesting document. From it is gathered that the total receipts to July 31, 1897, were $174,929.37. Disbursements $173,798.17, with $478 to pay on contracts, leaving a cash balance of $653.22. Average cost of maintenance per year, $12,870. There are 27 men, average 72 years; 7 women, average 67 years; 7 little girls and 6 boys now on the roll of inmates.

"It is a subject of pride and congratulation that this magnificent structure, costing, with the one hundred and fifty-four acres of ground, in the neighborhood of two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) had been erected and paid for by the Craft of Ohio, and that, too, during an unparalleled business depression."

That Companion Williams was prevented by reason of illness from furnishing the historical introduc-

tion to his report in the appendix, is a matter for genuine regret. We join in the earnest hope that he will be restored to health and that right soon.

He had Canada for 1897 under notice with others, and as usual is kind enough to do more than leave his card. It is a nice friendly call that we duly appreciate. He says we take exception to being hived with the foreigners. Not a bit of it. Our allusion was only jocularly directed at Com. Barlow's rearrangement, and on the Victorian matter he seems to have misinterpreted entirely our reference to the General Grand's action, or rather, no action. We merely stated a matter of fact, that Ohio had done in 1892 what the General Grand declined to do in 1894. If wrong we will cheerfully take it all back, meantime we will pray that the Great I Am will have our esteemed Companion in His Holy keeping.

"Consider
The sparrows of the air of small account
Our God doth view
Whether they fall or mount;
He guards us too."

Graff M. Acklin, Toledo, Grand High Priest.
Chas. C. Kiefer, Erbana, Grand Secretary.

Oregon.

Chapters, 36; members, 1,258.

One Chapter and thirty-two members less than the preceding year's report was Oregon's showing at the thirty-seventh annual Convocation, held at Portland, 14th June, 1897. Grand High Priest John H. Irvine in his address attributes this partly to hard times and partly to "a heated political campaign that almost suspended business in every other avenue of life."

Two young Chapters were constituted and the G. H. P. expressed confidence in their future strength.

Included in his decisions are a permission to use substitutes and a belief in perpetual jurisdiction over rejected material.

He recommended the annual publication of a digest of decisions, the "adornment" of the "proceedings"

with Past Grand High Priests' portraits and biographies, the compulsory registration of Marks, and a revision of "the work."

The indiscriminate and pernicious publication of rituals was brought to his notice by Grand Lecturer Pope who urged oral instruction and "no books."

Unlike his predecessor, he is an admirer of the Grand Representative system, and issued commissions to a number among whom was R. E. Comp. I Baker, of Stratford, Ont.

Untrammelled by the cares of office, Comp. Hodson again merrily plies the correspondent's pencil, and an excellent report is the result. We lift our "beaver" to his flattering compliment and acknowledge his fraternal attention. Here is how he replies to certain remarks of ours:

"If the Past Master is a bogus appendage, what can you say of the Mark and Most Excellent? They did not formerly intervene between the Master and the Royal Arch, but since Masonic tradition has taught its votaries, before a shadow or resemblance of either letter or character was written in the history, the Past Master was there; hence when you eliminated that you removed a landmark old as the Royal Arch degree itself, yet retained the newer inventions."

To Companion Hodson then belongs the distinction of lifting the Past Master's "degree" to the dignity of a landmark. Enough to animate the sacred relics of the departed Boston manufacturer of wall paper and ritual. In the "formerly" the presiding officer of a Masons' lodge was no doubt "there," and was as old, aye and considerably older, than the Royal Arch, but to impart that antiquity to the creation of Thomas Smith Webb is not worthy of Oregon's correspondent. Tradition gives the Mark working to the Fellow Craft degree, of which in "ye olden time," we are told, it formed a part and would therefore claim a hoarier antiquity than even the Master. In like manner the Royal Arch was the logical continuation of the latter, and was so regarded and worked in the days when Bro. Webb and his degree were in the very far away future.

A brother Master Mason in England, the cradle of the Craft, requires no prerequisite for the Arch. The

Mark is worked under a distinct government and it is optional with a brother whether he takes it or not. As for the Most Excellent it possesses about as much claim to recognition, on account of age, as its colleague the Past Master. It is a pretty conception, that it is all there as to it. Its right to a place in the procession dates from Webb's rearrangement of the degrees in 1800 or thereabouts, and is purely American and therefore modern.

We are further told that Webb in his desire to "round off things" and to arrive at the mystical number "seven," fabricated and innovated those two degrees, and having also founded a General Grand, was enabled to clothe them with the dignity of authority and arranged them between the Mark and Royal Arch. Webb gets full credit for the P. M. degree, but in the other case it is claimed that he refashioned and improved the labors of somebody else.

"We could probably get along with one of the commandments omitted; nine is a good number; but we never knew any one to advocate the elimination of one because it happened to be of less importance than another. The world will probably continue to appreciate the Ten Commandments, even though it may break some of them once in a while, and the Capitular world will most likely continue to confer the Past Master and teach its lessons, even though Canada has dropped it from her curriculum."

"The Capitular world." There it is again. Did it ever strike you, Companion Hodson, that there is considerable of a Capitular world outside the limits of the United States and that it is worrying along comfortably and instructing thousands of good Masons in the mysteries and beauties of the Royal Arch, without the aid of that "landmark"?

We hope that the world, Comp. Hodson's world, will continue to appreciate the Ten Commandments. We know of no extenuating circumstances that would justify the elimination of a single one, especially after perusing the following:

"He quotes the sayings of others pro and con on the dependent membership question, but never an opinion of his can we find."

Rash. Decidedly rash. For Oregon's sake the decalogue must be maintained intact. We thought we had declared ourselves on this question beyond peradventure. If Comp. Hodson will peruse us again, he will find that under Michigan we were not opinionless with regard to dependent membership, a system which we stigmatized as "harsh" and "foreign to the spirit of the Craft." Moreover we were not without reason for that opinion:

"And does not fancy being classed as a 'foreign' jurisdiction by some of the United States, notably Connecticut. All right—we don't want them to be in the least foreign, but will always be glad to hail them as one of us, and the closer we get the better it will suit a majority of our people; and if ever complete union is effected, it will be largely the work of the fraternal element enrolled in the Masonic order."

As well whistle for the moon. It has been remarked before that there is something of a world outside the United States, and Canada is part of it. That, however, should never affect the fraternal union which cannot be too close, and which should ever remind us to avoid subjects that are tabooed within the mystic circle.

Of our remarks that a brother whose advancement is objected to has some claim upon the consideration of the membership, he has something characteristic to say, and submits that the profane who has paid his fee has, on the same ground, a claim that he did not possess before. The lack of analogy was about to draw from us a remark that might have done Comp. Hodson some good, when the discovery that we had overstepped the space alloted to us recalled the story of an eminent preacher who prided himself in his ability to discourse without the aid of notes. He once got into the pulpit, but when he found himself face to face with his congregation his ideas vanished—his mind was a blank. He tapped his forehead but in vain. The ideas would not come. "My friends," he said, "I pity you; you've lost a fine sermon."

L. N. Roney, Eugene, Grand High Priest.
James F. Robinson, Eugene, Grand Secretary.

Pennsylvania.

Chapters, 121; members, 16,439.

At the quarterly Communication, held March 5th, 1896, a committee was appointed to revise the constitution. At the June meeting that committee was lacking one of its members, Past Grand High Priest Michael Nisbett, who was called away by death on the 7th May previously. Comp. John P. Clark, one of the Committee on Correspondence, was another valued member of Grand Chapter whose death was reported.

The annual Communication was held in Philadelphia on the 28th December, 1896, with a very large representation. M. E. Companion Eza S. Bartlett, Grand High Priest, delivered a thoughtful address which covered the period of his rulership and noted his leading official acts. Referring to the Grand Representatives he says:

"That the ties of brotherly affection may be strengthened, the prosperity of the Masonic fraternity promoted, its unity, integrity and strength protected, and honor confirmed by the appointment and reception of Grand Representatives from each Grand Chapter to the other, makes the Act of Appointment itself a strong argument and sufficient ground for its continuance; there surely can be no harm come from it. We note and record with pleasure the presence of the Representatives of our sister Grand Chapters at all our Communications, who are all Companions of high standing in the Craft. We recognize and encourage the sentiment which their presence implies as existing, which surely is no fictitious one."

He made complimentary reference to Companion W. A. Sinn, the Grand Tyler:

"Comp. Sinn served this Grand Chapter for more than eleven years, with the faithfulness and ability characteristic of the man, resigning after accepting the office of Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of F. and A. M. of Pennsylvania, by appointment of the R. W. Grand Master, filling the vacancy caused by the death of Comp. M. E. Past Grand High Priest Michael Nisbet, an appointment, I am happy to note, which received the almost unanimous endorsement of Grand Lodge."

He was a frequent visitor during the year and reported well upon the work. He records that one of the Chapters visited, Alleghany, No. 217, had a member-

ship of nearly four hundred, and an invested fund of over ten thousand dollars.

The constitution, as revised and adopted at the previous quarterly Communication, is referred to by the G. H. P., and to Companion Geo. E. Wagner, P. G. H. P., and J. Simpson Africa, he gives special credit for their labors. A fine portrait of the former Companion graces the printed proceedings.

Companion Richard M. Johnson, the G. H. P. elect, was installed and addressed the Companions.

The report on Correspondence is, as usual, the work of a committee of six and is a most readable document. In defending Pennsylvania's course with regard to N. P. D., Comp. Henderson under Colorado says:

"Chapters of Royal Arch Masons are like every other human organization, whether ecclesiastical or secular, in one respect, viz.: they cannot be organized or maintained without money. We may call it filthy lucre, spurn it, despise and condemn it, but we cannot do without it. In Pennsylvania the payment of dues is a Masonic obligation, their non-payment is a Masonic offence, for which the delinquent can be disqualified from exercising the right of suffrage. We do not think such a regulation un-Masonic."

That Pennsylvania in other respects is different from its sister jurisdictions is exemplified in the following remarks addressed to Companion Barlow, of Connecticut, who expressed surprise that no action had been taken on a decision of the Grand High Priest:

"Just here we will make some statements that doubtless will cause Companion Barlow surprise. The Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania is a very different officer from the Grand High Priest of many jurisdictions, and possesses prerogatives which they never in their wildest fancies ever dreamed of. In many jurisdictions he merely presides over the Chapter, receives reports, puts motions, etc. An appeal can be taken at any time from his rulings, and if he makes a decision it is of no force or effect until his Grand Chapter has confirmed it. The Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania is an autocrat in everything pertaining to Royal Arch Masonry within his jurisdiction. No appeal can be taken from his decisions, and they become a part of the written law, though any of his successors can reverse them. He is under no obligation to report his decisions to the Grand Chapter, though he does so, not for its approval, but for its information, and that they may assist in the settlement of future cases."

Companion Africa notes under Missouri the visit of the lady "Stars" to the Grand Chapter:

"The writer of this review is neither a crabbed old bachelor nor a woman-hater, but is just the opposite, and he acknowledges no superior in admiration and respect for the good and true of femininity, but insists that the Society of Freemasons was instituted by men and for men only, and that our sisters have no more right to obtrude themselves into our ancient organization than we, of the male persuasion, have to insist upon becoming members of the Sorosis, the Daughters of the Revolution, or other organizations originated and controlled by them."

He has our entire sympathy in this which he addresses to the same Companion. To our vision there is no more offensive and repulsive phrase, that has of late crept into the addresses of Grand High Priest's and others, than this "State of the Order." Turn it out:

"We must enter our decided protest againt the use of the word 'Order' to designate any body of Symbolic or Capitular Freemasons. Freemasonry is a 'Fraternity.' 'Order' is a word of modern coinage, borrowed from associations formed during the present century and improperly attempted to be engrafted upon our Masonic vocabulary."

Richard M. Johnson, Philadelphia, Grand High Priest.
Charles Carey, Philadelphia, Grand Secretary.

Quebec.

Chapters, 11; members, 514.

That the Grand Chapter of our sister province advances steadily year by year in quality as well as numbers is a matter for genuine gratification. A net increase of twenty-seven may not seem a great deal to many, but to those who realize the difficulties which the Companions have occasionally to surmount, it means much. The stability of the membership is, however, shown in the statement that during the year not a single Companion was suspended "for non-payment of dues or other causes." Surely that is a record to be proud of.

The twentieth annual Convocation was held in the Chapter Hall of the Montreal Masonic Temple, on the

26th January, 1897, with a very creditable representation, one Chapter only being missing.

M. E. Comp. Tresidder, Grand Z., congratulated the Companions on the peaceful condition of the Masonic world, and referred to the anti-Masonic conclave held at Trent during the year, the effect of which he predicted, would be to cement the fraternity the closer.

He granted permission to three Master Masons to receive the Chapter degrees in Carlton Chapter, Ottawa, their place of residence being remote from any Chapter under the jurisdiction of Quebec.

The deaths of three devoted Companions are noted. R. E. Comp. Angus Grant, Past Grand H., F. W. Bowen, Past Grand S. N., and Edwin Hall, Past Grand P. S.

Reports presented by the Grand Superintendents of districts indicate that the Chapters in their charge were carefully looked after.

Companion Chambers, having laid aside the sceptre, again takes up the quill, and we cordially join in the welcome which his return calls forth. Our proceedings had not reached him but he had heard from us:

"We have been favored with an advance copy of the Report of Foreign Correspondence prepared by Comp. George J. Bennett, which we may unhesitatingly pronounce to be one of the best of the year."

From such a source the above kind remark is duly appreciated. He quotes what we said on the old objection that the titles "Grand Lodge of Canada" and "Grand Chapter of Canada," should be retained by the brethren of Ontario, and replies:

"There is no need to look into the origin, Comp. Bennett. We would apply the remedy, 'right there,' pretty quickly, were we in the place of our Ontario Brethren and Companions, but our good Companion claims that it cannot be done by those who alone have the right and the power to do it."

It is a pity that this should be the only point of difference between jurisdictions otherwise so closely allied. The matter is trifling yet important, but not such as to ever culminate in fraternal hostilities. It is a

case in which both sides are inflexible, and we see no way out of the difficulty but to agree some time in the peaceful future to a committee of arbitration, selected say from the Masonic intellect of the reportorial guild. In the meantime the latter are not likely to take the subject up for controversy or comment :

"Referring to the notice in our annual address, of the feelings of national uneasiness that prevailed at the time of our 1896 Convocation, he is kind enough to say that the sentiments therein expressed, command a responsive echo the wide country over."

Observing the above it is noted that there is an intimation on the part of certain correspondents to indulge at periods in spread eagleism of the spasmodic variety. The man from Texas had also remarked the reference to " feelings of national uneasiness," and interpreted it to suit his own views. Companion Chambers thus aptly and vigorously replies :

"What does our good Companion mean by talking of 'fear' to subjects of the greatest empire that the world has ever known, of her for whom 'there are no terrors in national isolation, nor yet in studied affronts, whether intended to cater to the prejudices of a hostile democracy upon one continent, or to feed the warlike passions of vain-glorious legions upon another?'

What does he mean again by applying to us the conditional remark 'if they will only act on the Golden Rule?' Has he reason to suspect that we are likely to do anything else? We have none of that undesirable element in our country that could be classed 'a hostile democracy' so far as our neighbor's peace is concerned, or the enforcement of law and order at home. Some of our neighbors are not so fortunate, and some of their public men have not hesitated to risk the peace of the world by truckling, for a time, at least, in their public utterances, to the political influence of the worst elements of the community. These are all facts which cannot be successfully denied and they are facts that we regret. Freemasonry has nothing in common with these lawless elements or with the studied affronts that we have in mind, and we shall be very much surprised if our Texas Companions are ready to either justify or approve them."

J. B. Tresidder, Montreal, Grand Z.
Will. H. Whyte, Montreal, Grand Scribe E.

Rhode Island.

Chapters, 10: members, 2,549.

The printed proceedings for 1896 include steel engraved portraits of Albert L. Anthony, M. E. Grand High Priest, and W. T. C. Wardwell, G. H. P. in 1876 and 1877, and an ex-Lieut. Governor. M. E. Comp. Anthony presided over the ninety-eighth annual Convocation, held at Providence, March 10th, 1896. Grand High Priest Stivers and a number of other officers of the Grand Chapter of New York were welcomed as visitors.

The G. H. P. visited all the Chapters and his deputies and the Grand Lecturer were also busy to the same end. The latter for nine years devoted himself to the duties "without hope of fee or reward," and the G. H. P. called attention to the fact, accompanying it with a timely recommendation. Later the sum of one hundred dollars was voted as "a token of appreciation."

He observed that although the Chapters are supplied with books for Marks, few if any are recorded, and adds that in one with a very large membership only four Marks were registered in the last twenty years.

The necessity and importance of the matter are never fully set forth to the candidate subsequent to the degree, and as he is invariably left to his own devices the selection is never made.

Alliance with the General Grand was advocated by the G. H. P., and he also urged the continuance of the Correspondence report.

The annual dinner was in evidence as usual and the Grand Stewards were instructed to pay for it and to provide for next year.

Comp. Rev. H. W. Rugg furnishes a condensed report on Correspondence which may be described as *multum in parvo*. He deals with most of the topics under discussion, and has something of historical interest to say on the Royal Arch in America and the relation of Cryptic and Capitular Masonry:

"It is well known that the Athol Masons of England had in their possession a ritual of the Royal Arch degree, about the

middle of the eighteenth century, and worked the same about that time. The regular Grand Lodge of England did not recognize the degree in its constitution until a much later period. In this country, the degree of the Royal Arch was first conferred under the authority of Lodges. Thus it was conferred in Philadelphia, Boston, Providence, and elsewhere, soon after the middle of the eighteenth century; but prior to this time we have the well authenticated record of the working of this degree at Fredericksburg, Va., as early as December 22, 1753. On that date, in the Lodge where Geo. Washington received Masonic degrees, the Royal Arch degree was conferred on three brethren, officers of that Lodge, viz.: the Master, Junior Warden and Secretary. Thus it is a priority in the conferring of the degree seems to be conclusively established."

Where were the "prerequisites" then? And of the Cryptic degrees he has this to say:

"In some form or other, these degrees should be preserved and their lessons utilized. It is argued by certain brethren who have given careful consideration to the subject, that the interests of Cryptic and Capitular Freemasonry would be better served, not by putting the Cryptic degrees in the Chapter, to be regarded only as an *annex*, or as side degrees, but by incorporating them into the Capitular system. If the Past Masters' and Most Excellent Masters' degrees were dispensed with, then a place could be made for the Cryptic degrees, and the Royal Arch system would become more intelligible and symmetrical, taken as a whole."

He believes that the P. M. belongs to the Lodge and not to the Chapter. Comp. Rugg in thus expressing himself is in danger of being accused of advocating the removal of a landmark:

"As we have said before, there seems to be no good reason why this degree should be kept in the Capitular system, in any jurisdiction where the Grand Lodge having authority would exercise that authority for the working of a proper and legitimate Past Master's degree."

1897.

Within one year of its century, or as Comp. Rugg put it, "a useful and unbroken existence of one hundred years," Rhode Island may indeed rejoice in its honorable record. The centennial will be fittingly celebrated March 8th, 1898.

M. E. Comp. Caleb L. Knight, Grand High Priest, called the ninety-ninth annual Convocation to order on the 9th March, 1897, at Providence, and then accorded

a welcome to M. E. George McCahan, General Grand High Priest; R. E. Arthur C. Pollard, General Grand Scribe of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America; M. E. John M. Carter, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Maryland; M. E. Companions Frederick E. Barner and George E. W. Stivers, Past Grand High Priests; R. E. John W. Palmer, Deputy Grand High Priest, and R. E. Adolph Muesham, Grand Master 3rd Veil of the Grand Chapter of New York.

The presence of this galaxy was significant. It meant that "Little Rhody" had at last yielded to the kindly pressure and consented to surrender the independence it had hitherto enjoyed by becoming one of the "family" under the wing of the General Grand Chapter. Next!

The Grand High Priest's address was brief:

"No appeals have been made, no grievances presented, and consequently no decisions rendered."

During the year the Masonic Temple was destroyed by fire, and owing to the severe loss the committee having in charge the procuring of jewels for all being Past Grand High Priests, prudently decided to postpone action:

"The loss of the Temple to the Masonic fraternity was great, not only the Jewels, Collars and Aprons of our Grand Chapter being lost, but many things of value (to the craft alone), which money cannot replace."

A committee was appointed to arrange for the proper celebration of the centennial, and the Correspondence chairman's labours were subsequently recognized. A fine portrait of Past Grand High Priest Levi Locke Webster, who died in the preceding February, is embraced in this volume. Deceased presided over Grand Chapter in 1864.

Comp. Rugg again reviews the questions which are foremost in controversy and congratulates the Craft upon the progress and strength of Capitular Masonry.

John F. Oldham, Pawtucket, Grand High Priest.
William R. Greene, Providence, Grand Secretary.

South Dakota.

Chapters, 27; members, 1,441.

Golden Belt Chapter, U. D., at Lead City, is an addition to the number of Chapters in this jurisdiction, and the Grand High Priest believes it has come to stay. A couple of old Chapters, however, were delinquent, the charter of one being threatened with arrest.

The eighth annual Convocation was held at Mitchell, on the 10th June, 1897, forty Representatives of Chapters registered, thirty being proxies.

Grand High Priest Ayres was unable to visit the Chapters in his jurisdiction, but so far as he knows all are happy and prosperous.

An alleged invasion of jurisdiction by a Nebraska Chapter, which threatened complications, was adjusted satisfactorily, the offending side taking the initiative in the settlement.

Among his decisions is observed the following, which we believe to be right:

"I have been requested to define the status of Chapter members who have become voluntary non-affiliates in the Blue Lodge, and while I have affirmed the decisions and rulings of this Grand Chapter, *i. e.* that 'a Royal Arch Mason unaffiliated in Lodge has no standing in his Chapter while such non-affiliation is voluntary,' I have held that no Companion can be deprived of his membership without due notice from his Chapter and regular trial."

As a preface to an interesting report on Correspondence, Comp. Levoy furnishes a dissertation on the evil of non-payment of dues and its hurtful effects on Lodge or Chapter, all of which is sound. To our thinking Secretaries are largely contributory to the condition of affairs deplored by Companion Levoy, and which we have frequently had occasion to bring to the notice of Grand Chapter. An industrious Secretary with a method will do much towards keeping the membership intact. Non-payment of dues, and all the ills arising therefrom, will furnish topics for discussion to the end of the chapter. It is an evil that started with the institution and can never be wholly eradicated. He who has the custody of the books can do much to lessen it.

Companion Levoy has had Canada for 1897 under revision. He quotes freely from the Grand Z. and says:

"In fact the whole address is good common sense and he has made a model Grand Z. and given Grand Chapter a model administration."

"The Committee on Address of Grand Z. in their conclusion acknowledged the weighty obligation Grand Chapter was under to him for his noble work of two and one-half years in the chair, and for his other good deeds while connected with the Craft, which honor was surely in his case fully earned."

He is good enough to dub our report a "hummer," though we trust it was without "sting."

"The report all through is entertaining as well as instructive. Any of his Companions desiring knowledge of the Capitular world at large or the doings of any Grand Chapter in particular has only to secure a copy and read it, when he cannot help being informed and instructed; we confess to a full evening of pleasure and profit in its perusal finding many gems worthy of reproduction, but have dwelt so long with the proceedings as a whole, and the review accordingly so much longer than intended that we must forego, in the hope of again having the pleasure of reading further efforts of his capable pen and quoting therefrom."

Samuel J. Coyne, Aberdeen, Grand High Priest.
G. A. Pettigrew, Flandreau, Grand Secretary.

Tennessee.

Chapters, 68; members, 2,662.

Of the sixty-eight Chapters on the roll fifty-seven were represented at the sixty-eighth annual Convocation held at Nashville, January 25th, 1897. Grand High Priest Henderson, supported by his Grand Officers and some eight of his predecessors in the chair, presided.

He led off his address with an assurance that the "State of the Order" indicated peace and harmony and he avoided "Necrology."

His visitations were frequent and he apparently enjoyed them. Here is his impression of Knoxville:

"We were then, literally, called from labor to refreshments, repairing to a near-by room, where all the elegancies of the season were served in a most tasteful manner."

That was "elegant" of course but Chattanooga did the right thing also:

"After closing, we gathered in social converse in the banquet hall, where delicious refreshments were bountifully served, after which there were many toasts and equally as many happy responses. The time passed quickly amid mirth, jest and Masonic treasure."

A veritable social Klondike. He made a rare discovery at Greenville:

"It now has seventy-seven members, sixty-eight of whom were exalted in their own Chapter; they have never missed a Convocation since the granting of their charter, and no member of the Chapter is addicted to intoxicating drinks."

His experience of Morristown is likewise a pleasant memory:

"After closing, the Companions repaired to a convenient room where all the real dainties of the season were served to the entire satisfaction of the most fastidious taste."

But it was reserved for the Memphis Companions to fill his cup of enjoyment to overflowing:

"It was the exemplification of a glorious truth, the opening up of a new field of thought, the impressing of old truths and wondrous beauties in such vivid and realistic representations as never to be forgotten. I was royally entertained by the Companions, received in that spirit of old Abrahamic hospitality which ever warms the heart and stores the golden casket of memory with treasures of fond recollections."

Bur he at no time lost sight of the requirements of his trust, and devotion to duty characterized his period of office throughout. His "conclusion" is a great effort of which a couple of specimens will be enough to reveal the whole. Deploring the lack of Masonic knowledge generally he says:

"The same danger menaces our republican form of government to-day by the daily number of emigrants thrown upon our shores; people who have with us no sympathy of purpose—for good. Who do not understand our institutions, and care not to. Who have no reverence for the memory of the heroic dead, no love for our traditions, no conception of American patriotism, because they have had no part in the glorious past and care not for the hope of the future. They are to-day an element of uncertainty which our wisest statesmen are endeavoring to mould into a homogeneous population, failing in which, this unassimilated mass may one day turn and rend to destruction the very institutions that have fostered and protected them."

By the way what would this continent be to-day if immigration had been suppressed a hundred years ago? Yet despite the presence of "this unassimilated mass that may one day turn and rend," he indulges in this patriotic outburst:

"And it should be a matter of profound congratulation to every Mason to observe the obedience and admissive spirit of the people of our grand united country to the political change of government from one great political party to another. 'Without a jar. without the stoppage of a single wheel, in the twinkling of an eye, the government of seventy million proud people will be changed, and our national machinery will go on as smoothly and as irresistibly as it has from its beginning.' Back to their peaceful avocations in life the millions of American freemen return after the result of a Presidential contest is known, as silently and submissively as sank the brave Highlanders of Roderick Dhu into the banks of heather."

Mark, the millions of American freemen, among whom of course there is none of the menacing foreign element, not even immigrant clansmen of Roderick Dhu.

He reported a satisfactory settlement of the question of jurisdiction between Anderson Chapter, No. 141, Bristol, Tennessee, and E. H. Gill Chapter, No. 50, Bristol, Va.

To a resolution offered by a Companion having for its object an amendment to the governing regulation, the Committee on Jurisprudence reported:

"The effect of this resolution, if adopted, would be to allow Chapters to drop members from roll without charges and trial. We submit, that depriving a Companion of membership is a punishment, and we do not believe that punishment should be inflicted without charges and trial; and therefore recommend that the resolution be not adopted."

Comp. Ingersoll is still at the reportorial table and furnishes his Companions a bill of fare that exceeds all the "elegancies" ever placed before an honored Grand High Priest. Referring under California to the recent "rite troubles" in that jurisdiction, he talks to his Tennesseean Companions in this wise and to which we ejaculate a fervent "hear, hear," though we may be pardoned if we object to the completing of the Masonic edifice with something that is not Masonic. The furnishing, adornment and completion is found in the Royal Arch:

"You can not appreciate, Companions, your happy lot in Tennessee, till you have felt the atmosphere of a Jurisdiction wherein the Scotch nobility have seized upon the Grand Bodies, safely entrenched themselves therein, created and established a Masonic trust, and with the monopolistic powers peculiar to this American octopus, proceeded to crush out all liberty of thought and action on the part of Brethren and Companions in regard to the side degrees of Masonry. Every power and function is bent to their purpose, every energy of the Craft perverted to their selfish ends. And all this under guise of the good of Masonry—Scottish Rite, of course! Here in Tennessee, we magnify our Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery, and no side issue can put us at war with one another. And we rejoice in our Freemasonry and our Fraternity. Happy, thrice happy, are we!

"What is there so attractive about these Scottish Rites that American Masons must forget friendship and fraternity, and violate sacred obligations to their nearest kindred, that they may make unholy alliance with these foreign foes? Is there aught better in the world for us than the American system of Freemasonry? Laying our corner-stone in the north-east corner of an E. A. Lodge, have we not completed, adorned and fully furnished the Grand Masonic edifice when we have donned the sword and chapeau of the Knight Templar?

From his able conclusion we cull the following, with which we are in entire sympathy:

"The 'new woman' is not wholly absent from Freemasonry. In the Northwest especially her voice is heard in the lodge-room—not merely as a quartette singer, but also as a solo speaker. The Eastern Star is shining forth, and the wives, sisters and daughters of Masons, being organized into lodges, are becoming familiar with affairs that belong only unto men. Many Brethren and Companions in some States are encouraging this new departure.

It is a passing show, of course. And when the craze is over, when the epidemic ceases, we shall be, or if not we, our children will be what we were and our parents before us.

The men will grow beards, and sing bass, and win bread, and be fathers, and wear pants, and fight the battle of life in field and farm, in shop and mill, in pulpit and forum; and the women, God bless them, will be mothers and wives and sisters and daughters of men, queens of the home, ruling there by right divine, and making it like heaven, dispensing love and joy in human hearts, and being happiest of mortals from making others happy; in their own sphere will they rule and shine 'a little lower than the angels,'

Let us, Companions, not encourage their mania for clubs and circles and lodges and chapters, or anything that tends to lower them in our esteem, weaken the home tie, destroy their holy influence or bring them to our level!"

Isaac J. Thurman, McMinnville, Grand High Priest.
W. A. Clendenning, Nashville, Grand Secretary.

Texas.

Chapters, 138; members, 6,205.

M. E. Companion A. S. Bunting presided at the forty-seventh annual Convocation, held in the city of Houston, on December 1, 1896.

Four distinguished Companions have been called away since last meeting, viz.: Past Grand High Priest Henry Florel Gillette, Past D. G. H. P. James Wrigley, Past Grand Secretary Robert Brewster, and Grand Steward J. P. Howard.

The Grand High Priest announced the constituting of five new Chapters, the restoration of three, and the resurrection of five.

The High Priest of a Chapter wrote to him under peculiar circumstances. An expelled member of a Blue Lodge insisted upon it that his rights in the Chapter were undisturbed, and despite the advice of friends and the menacing attitude of the Guard, obtruded his presence upon the Companions, and on one occasion bursting open the door. The meetings were, of course, rendered abortive, and the High Priest having unintentionally violated the Constitution which provides for the forfeiture of the Charter if Convocations are not held for three consecutive months submitted a statement of the situation. The G. H. P. replied:

"Deal gently with him, as there are doubts as to his sanity. Advise with him through his best friends. If this fails, proceed against him in the criminal court through your Mayor, or if your town is not incorporated, through your County Attorney.

You have not forfeited your charter if you will have recorded your January Convocation, just as it occurred, and state the reasons why you did not complete the opening ceremonies."

An offspring of the General Grand was heard from in this wise:

"A communication reached me from Companion Richard E. Chism, H. P. of Independencia Chapter, No. 1, City of Mexico, stating that there was a Chapter of that name, with charter, duly constituted by dispensation from General G. H. P., February 15th, 1895, and that he was then installed as High Priest. I made no reply to the communication, and now ask that the same be referred to Committee on Jurisprudence, and requested to report at this Convocation."

And that Committee disposed of it thus:

"Referring to the letter from Mexico, sent to this committee by the M. E. Grand High Priest, we beg to say there is nothing in it requiring any action at this time either by your committee or by the Grand Chapter."

The reports of the Grand Visitors indicated a continued interest in the working, but the prevailing disinclination to choose and register the Mark induced the Jurisprudence Committee to submit three resolutions, which, if they do not bring the Companions to a sense of their apathy, then that committee had better go out of the resolution business:

"*Resolved*. That if any Mark Master who receives the degree after the adoption of this resolution fails to 'choose a Mark,' and furnish the same to his Chapter within twelve months from the date of 'marking,' he shall be deemed guilty of a Masonic offense, and may be proceeded against by his Chapter in the same manner as now provided for trials for Masonic offenses.

That any one a Mark Master at the date of the adoption of this resolution who has not heretofore chosen a Mark, and shall fail to do so within twelve months after the adoption of this resolution, may be proceeded against as in case provided for in resolution No. 2.

That the Secretaries of all Chapters be instructed to notify all members of their Chapters, who have not chosen a Mark, of these resolutions."

Grand Orator W. Clark descanted to the extent of four pages on the benefits of Masonry, and his admirable effort was ordered to be printed with the proceedings.

One hundred dollars to reimburse the G. H. P., was ordered to be paid and his successors, by the same resolution, will each receive a similar sum.

Companion John L. Terrell submits another racy report on Correspondence in which Canada does not appear. To Comp. Singleton's contention that the Grand Chapters composing the General Grand Chapter do not surrender their independence by being a constituent of that body, he pertinently replies:

"Those Grand Chapters who are members of that sovereignty are subject to its authority. It would be an anomaly to say that a constituent member of a body is independent of

the sovereign of which it is constituent. The General Grand Chapter is supreme, and some of the members of the corps have already insisted that it shall become a 'governing body.' All it has to do is to declare itself a 'governing body,' and all the members of the household are bound by its sovereign act.

The Grand Chapter of Texas is sovereign, and is likely to remain so."

Winding up, he says, and in it he displays a streak of wisdom that is at least emulative:

"Having reviewed all the proceedings that have come to hand, we have decided to conclude."

R. O. Rounsarall, Waco, Grand High Priest.
Geo. Lopass, Jr., Houston, Grand Secretary.

Vermont.

Chapters, 27; members, 2,783.

The counterfeit presentment of Vermont's Capitular ruler is given with the proceedings of 1897, and if the Companions generally are as good looking as M. E. Comp. Daniel N. Nicholson much may be expected of this old Grand Chapter in future.

There was a large representation at the eightieth annual Convocation, held at Burlington, on June 11th, and all heard a lengthy and ornate address from the Grand High Priest. It covers thirty pages of the proceedings, and reveals that, although he has delved in some of the quarries already worked, he has also opened up new ground.

He devotes much study to the requirements of Grand Chapter in the matter of ritual and floor work, and submitted a number of useful recommendations as a result of his observations.

The reports of the District Deputy Grand High Priests showed that the work of visitation was well performed and yielded good results.

An interesting feature of the volume is an account of the proceedings of the fourth annual Convocation of the District Deputy Grand High Priests, under the instruction of the Grand Lecturer. This meeting was held at Burlington, on the 14th October, by a number

of Grand Officers and visitors as well as those for whom it was convened. The addresses were all valuable and instructive, and the entire proceedings must have been of more than ordinary interest.

In the course of a thoughtful address the Grand High Priest said:

"The Past Master of a Chapter is only a *quasi* Past Master; the true and legitimate Past Master is the one who has presided over a symbolic Lodge.

* * * * * * * * *

Rudeness and insults are not essential to the instruction of a candidate in any degree of Freemasonry, nor are they permitted, and it is your duty and my duty to see that the order of the General Grand Chapter is obeyed in all of the Chapters in this Grand Jurisdiction. If, however, there is anything in the degree essential to the interests of Capitular Masonry, after diligent search I have failed to find it."

Among the distinguished visitors present was Past Grand Master Geo. O. Tyler, whose name is so familiar in our sister province. From his remarks the following is culled:

"As the M. E. Grand High Priest has said, 'The Royal Arch degree is still connected with the Blue Lodge in England.' The Mark Master degree in England is given under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, which was established, I think, about 1855 or 1856, and is a jurisdiction independent of the symbolic Grand Lodge. The officers are the same as in America, with the addition of a Chaplain, Director of Ceremonies, Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Registrar of Marks, Inner Guard or Time Keeper and two Stewards. Master Masons are eligible for initiation. The degree is virtually the same in Scotland and Ireland. It differs, however, in some respects from the American degree.

The Past Masters' degree is given in similar form to that just adopted by your Grand Lodge, and compiled by your M. E. Grand High Priest, but is always given by symbolic or Blue Lodges, and is not known in connection with any other degrees, except as being a sort of pre-requisite to receiving the Royal Arch degree, not, however, particularly on account of that degree, but because a man must be an actual Master or Past Master of a Lodge in order to get the Royal Arch, and he cannot preside as a Master until he has received the Past Master degree. I fully agree with your M. E. Grand High Priest that it is a useless appendage to Royal Arch Chapters.

The Most Excellent Master's degree is unknown in England. This degree is peculiarly American, it being practiced in no other country.

M. E. Comp. Marsh O. Perkins, who has for six years served Vermont at the reporter's table, is again the welcome correspondent. He courteously reviews Canada for 1896, and thus says of the Grand Z. and the proceedings generally:

"The Grand Z. condenses much solid truth in his excellent report of an intelligent, faithful and zealous stewardship.

He rightly looks upon debts and dues as synonimous terms, and tersely remarks: 'The man who can, but won't, pay the latter, is apt to pursue the same course in regard to the former;' notes with great satisfaction that the abandonment of the Past Master's degree has no way affected the smooth progress of the work, explains to his Companions how they can be readily invested with the mysteries, if they wish to visit in the States, and gives the Grand Chapters in the circle of the General Grand a gentle rap over the knuckles by alluding to the independence of the Canadian Grand Chapter; reports dispensations for three new Chapters; and speaks of the union of the Australian Chapters, as having been effected under the happiest auspices, at the same time appearing to heave a great sigh of relief, because the jurisdiction of Grand Chapter is now 'limited to the Pacific coast.'"

The reports of the Grand Superintendents of Districts are again exhaustive in details and replete with interest, showing a most commendable degree of faithfulness and zeal in the conscientious discharge of their important duties. One Superintendent had a district 1000 miles in length. Another explained his inability to visit a Chapter by saying that 'to do so would require over two thousand four hundred miles of travel.' We think his neglect is in a measure excusable.

The Report on Correspondence is submitted by R. E. George J. Bennett, and is the result of his second annual inspection of the work brought up from forty-seven Grand Jurisdictions, with finishing indentations of his own perfect chisel."

Like Companion Perkins, we are not permitted to engage the entire time and attention of the printer. If we were, it is more than probable that our sojourn in Vermont would be lengthened.

Eugene S. Weston, New Haven, Grand High Priest.
Warren G. Reynolds, Burlington, Grand Secretary.

Virginia.

Chapters, 38; members, 2,504.

The historic city of Richmond was again selected for the eighty-ninth annual Convocation, which opened on the 20th November, 1896.

M. E. Comp. Jacob Bumgardner, Grand High Priest, who is also the efficient Grand Lecturer, welcomed the Companions and recorded his year's official acts in a brief and practical address.

He feelingly touched upon the death of Rev. Dr. Dame, Past Grand High Priest, and Grand Chaplain, who "for half a century had been a true and faithful minister in the Episcopal Church, and during all these years was a zealous and active Mason." The death of E. Companion Turner, a member of the Committee on Work, is also mentioned.

Among the commissions issued by him is that to R. E. Comp. Alex. Patterson, Toronto, Representative of Virginia near the Grand Chapter of Canada.

Referring to the Masonic Home, he says he had the pleasure of seeing something of "the little orphans" during the year and expresses an earnest hope "that the Grand Chapter take action looking to the establishment of some distinctive feature bearing its name."

Later the Grand High Priest presented his report as Grand Lecturer, which showed that good work was done by himself and assistants.

The Grand Treasurer's statement indicates that Grand Chapter had a balance in the bank of $43.47, 200 shares in the Masonic Temple Association, $600 Richmond City six per cent. bonds and 312 Text Books. How the "Home" is to be benefitted with something distinctive is hard to determine, but the special committee was hopeful:

"Your committee recommend that the suggestions of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest in regard to the Masonic Home be carried out, and that any surplus remaining in the hands of the Grand Treasurer, after paying all other appropriations ordered by the Grand Chapter and the salaries of the Grand officers, be paid to the Board of Governors, not exceeding three hundred dollars."

Companion Charles A. Nesbitt submits a necessarily condensed but most readable report on Correspondence. He agrees with Canada on the Past Master, quoting with satisfaction from Grand Z Robertson's remarks, reviews our proceedings for '95 and notes that we do not "hanker after the Eastern Star degrees." He is

also with us on the doubtful propriety of conferring degrees for "little or nothing" on clergymen because of their profession. We greet Companion Nesbitt and hope to hear from him again.

John P. Steffner, Bristol, Grand High Priest.
James B. Blanks, Petersburg, Grand Secretary.

Washington.

Chapters, 18; members, 1,131.

On the 4th June, 1897, Grand Chapter again assembled at Tacoma, in its thirteenth annual Convocation, M. E. Companion Walter L. Darby presiding.

There were about forty Companions present, and as some ten committees of three each were appointed, pretty nearly everybody had employment.

The G. H. P.'s address was a record of dispensations granted, among which was one for a new Chapter at Seattle, the annual death roll, by-laws approved, correspondence and decisions, and the cheering announcement that "peace and harmony prevail." He does not credit himself with any visitations. Among his decisions is noted the following:

"What is the standing of a Companion Roysl Arch Mason in his Chapter when he is dropped from the roll in his lodge for N. P. D.?

Answer. Dropping from the roll for N, P. D. in the lodge does not affect a Companion's standing in his Chapter. This question has been asked several times during the year, and in each case I have given substantially the same answer."

"Can a member hold his membership in the Chapter while he is demitted from the lodge?

Answer. Yes."

No dependent membership in Washington. He declined to nominate Grand Representatives as his Grand Chapter had previously declared itself adverse to the system, and besides, did not his predecessor call it a "costly system?"

"The Acting Grand Orator, Companion N. S. Porter, then delivered a splendid extemporaneous address on Capitular Masonry, and on motion he was requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication with the proceedings."

Companion Blalock's serious attention is directed to the foregoing. Last year the Grand Orator's effort was purloined and an alleged poem was nefariously substituted. On this occasion the genuine article is on hand but nowhere can we find it in cold type. We were keenly anxious to peruse Companion Porter's address which would probably have enlightened us as to Capitular working in Washington, but Companion Blalock issues the proceedings without it, and also without an apology, poetic or otherwise. Companion B. admits that we are in need of instruction and yet cruelly withholds it. But perhaps that thief with the unappeasable appetite for orations was prowling around again.

The Committee on Grievances announced that "profound peace reigns supreme."

Companion J. Weatherwax, of that ilk, is the author of the following resolution, and coming from a Companion who courts the Muses, is strangely enough submitted in plain but ornate prose:

"*Whereas*, All intellectual people recognize that the march of progress must not be delayed; therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the ritual known under that euphonious name of 'Ye Black Hawk Braves,' be, and is, from and after this date relegated to that 'innocuous desuetude' that has been handed down to us by great writers since the memory of man, and that this Grand Chapter adopt the Ritual promulgated by the General Grand Chapter of the United States."

The Jurisprudence Committee recommended that a special committee take charge of the above gem. Here is another important enactment:

"On motion it was ordered that the voting sign of a Royal Arch Mason in this Grand Jurisdiction be the uplifted left hand."

The Finance Committee's report closes with the following, which will come as a shock to those who annually look for the results of Companion Blalock's thought and research:

"We would call the attention of the M. E. Grand Chapter to the fact that our expenditures are in excess of our receipts, and that some reduction be made in expenses. With this in view, would instruct the chairman on Correspondence to limit his report for next year to sixty pages or less."

Now, according to the same report, it is observed that the lion's share of the receipts, viz.: $592.20, goes to pay the forty or so Representatives who attend Grand Chapter. If there is any pruning to be done why not commence there and not deprive Washington of the intellectual cream which Companion Blalock skims from the reports of other jurisdictions for the benefit of his Companions?

His report on this occasion is embraced in one hundred and twenty-eight pages, and could not, with justice to the scissors, be reduced one-half. Canada, for instance, has five pages, and by the way it's not all scissors either. We gave him a hint last year that we entertained an opinion about Eastern Star intrusion at a Masonic funeral and other Washington practices, and he actually loses his grasp of the familiar implement to seize the pen. If we had given him that opinion we fear he might have picked up something else:

"I suppose we must put up with your criticisms, Companion B., as you seem to be a new hand at the bellows and seem to have accumulated quite a supply of wind, but wait until you have blown at some of the old 'wheel horses' in the guild a few times and you get set back on your haunches a few times like a young colt being tamed you will not be so fresh and windy. Come over to Washington, Companion B., and we think we could teach you whether it is in the line of dignity or not for the Grand Chapter to act as escort at the funeral of one of its Officers when the Lodge gave him his Masonic birth."

Crisp and sporty. Well, we seriously considered that invitation "a few times," and thought about running across for an hour or two just to try our wind, when the following delightfully humourous interpretation of some other remarks caught our eye and we concluded that the journey would be utterly hopeless:

"We rise to inform the Companions that we published the oration as it was delivered, and that we are not 'keen nor mixed up somewhat' as he seems to be in regard to the 'Grand Representative system,' as the $600 was the mileage and per diem paid to the delegates from the Constituent Chapters in this State and not to the Grand Representatives, And as to the Chapter to which Companions Weatherwax belongs, that it is a flourishing, healthy Chapter, pays its debts and confers the degrees with due solemnity and decorum, which is more than a number of the Canadian Chapters do, according to the address of the Grand Z."

Now Companion B. haven't you been mixing things up again? If that blessed oration was "stolen" how came it that the proceedings state "the Grand Orator then delivered his annual address, etc.," and subsequently "the oration which was to have been delivered has never been heard of?" Further, the G. H. P. had dubbed the Grand Representative system "costly" when it really cost nothing or next to nothing, and we merely pointed out the inconsistency of Companions who drew $600 from the treasury, agreeing with him. That's all. Next time you read us, Companion, read yourself also.

"But with all this we commend Companion B. to the Guild. He is bright and will learn in time that there are others in the world."

There's generosity for you. Coals of fire on our innocent head. Well we have learned that there is "one," and we are proud to feel that we have been the humble means of extracting something absolutely original from him. The pen, after all, is mightier than the scissors. What we fear now is, that this sweet communion of such recent growth is cruelly nipped in the bud by the spasm of economy exhibited by a heartless Finance Committee, but we will earnestly pray that they may realize their error and reform, and that Companion Blalock may be spared in health for many years to exchange views with the distant Companions who respect and esteem him.

"Great souls, by instinct, to each other turn,
Demand alliance, and in friendship burn."

Carmi Dibble, New Whatcom, Grand High Priest.
Yancey C. Blalock, Walla Walla, Grand Secretary.

West Virginia.

Chapters, 23; members, 1,381.

The addition of three Chapters and one hundred and sixty-five to the total membership is conclusive evidence that West Virginia is not falling behind. Seventeen of the twenty-three Chapters were represented at the twenty-ninth annual Convocation, held at Wheeling, on Monday, the 9th November, 1896.

Grand High Priest Samuel N. Myers did not have much to report, so that his address was brief. He recommended the appointment of district visiting officers as in the Grand Lodge, instancing his own case as one where a Grand Chapter officer was unable to accomplish one of the duties assigned him.

M. E. Comp. McCahan, General Grand High Priest, was an honored visitor and was cordially received.

Grand Secretary Long in his report announces the death of Comp. Rev. H. W. Torrance, chairman of the Correspondence Committee, which took place in New York on the 4th July previously.

"Shortly after the meeting of the Grand Chapter, he felt it his duty to resign his position as pastor of the Kanawha Presbyterian Church and remove with his family to New York. On the 31st December he wrote me that he hoped to have the report completed by the first of February. I received another letter from him, written on the 6th of January; and then nothing more until there came to hand the sad letter which I printed in the appendix to the proceedings, where we had fondly hoped his report would appear.

Brother Torrence came into Freemasonry comparatively a few years ago, he having been exalted in September, 1888, but he gave to it, from the time of his initiation, earnest and enthusiastic study. He delighted in the investigation of its symbolism and of its history, and he was a faithful attendant at its meetings of the several bodies to which he belonged and took part in the ceremonial work. His absence is sorely missed by the Freemasons in Charleston, and still more by the family that was nearer and dearer to him by all earthly ties."

The proceedings are without the customary report in the appendix which Grand Secretary Long explains:

"The death of Companion Torrence having made vacant the Post of Correspondent, I was rash enough to write to the Grand High Priest in the middle of the summer volunteering my service for the preparation of a report to be presented at this meeting, for I have long had a desire to write *one* report on Foreign Correspondence for the Grand Chapter. The Grand High Priest courteously and in very flattering terms promptly accepted my offer, but I soon found that my enthusiasm had outrun my discretion, and that I had assumed a duty which I was unable to perform. I am, as some of you know, a very busy man, and when intervals of leisure do sometimes occur they must be given to rest and recuperation, both bodily and mental. Hence the report has not been written."

He is evidently determined on that one report, for it is observed that the mantle has fallen upon him.

Next year, therefore, we shall hear from Companion Long.

The arrangements for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Grand Chapter had been entrusted to a committee which very sensibly reported:

"We have not thought it best to devise any elaborate or expensive programme, or to put on any gaudy or gorgeous airs over the arrival of our Silver Anniversary, but we respond to the sentiment expressed last year that the event should not be permitted to pass without notice and recognition. We have, therefore, assisted by the never failing courtesy of the Companions of Wheeling Union Chapter No. 1, arranged for a plain and unpretentious supper to be served in this hall this evening, at the close of which a few papers will be read relative to the history of the Grand Chapter and its early constituents, and Royal Arch reminiscences of all sorts will be in order. It is hoped that the memory of the event may be pleasant to you in after years and that from a recital of the successes of the past we may all gather strength for the achievement of greater triumphs in the future."

And the supper came off "plain and unpretentious" but thoroughly enjoyable. In the words of the chronicler:

"No special ceremony was invented for the occasion; no invitations were sent abroad; no menu, garnished with apt quotation and supplemented by set toasts, was printed; but the proceedings were left to shape themselves to the occasion amid whatever circumstances might arise."

James McCahan, Wheeling, Grand High Priest.
Odel S. Long, Charleston, Grand Secretary.

Wisconsin.

Chapters, 73; members, 5,894.

M. E. Companion J. T. Pryor, Jr., presided over the forty-seventh annual Convocation, held in Milwaukee, on the 17th February, 1897, and to a large attendance he delivered an address which was chiefly of local interest.

He granted dispensations for two new Chapters, one at Milwaukee and the other at Rhinelander. In this connection he complains that the powers of a G. H. P. are too circumscribed by the constitution.

He urged a system of official visitation and recommended a revised edition of the constitution.

The reports of the several committees indicated peace and prosperity throughout the jurisdiction.

That on Jurisprudence agreed with the G. H. P. complaint as to lack of power in granting dispensations, but

"A division of the report being called for, so much thereof as approved the ruling that the Grand High Priest has no power to grant dispensations other than to organize new Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, was laid over for one year; all proposed amendments to the Constitution laid over one year."

Companion W. C. Swain presents his fourteenth report on Correspondence, and, as usual, it is pleasant, entertaining and instructive. Some of his remarks are worthy of reproduction, as for instance this under California:

"A certain amount of 'padding' seems necessary for every Masonic address, which generally comes in the shape of moral reflections, and means as much as does the clergyman when he inveighs against the sins of the distant heathen. We generally skip it in our review; but, unfortunately, some take it seriously, and it is at the bottom of some of our unnecessary legislation, on temperance, for instance."

Here is a confession, however, which makes us blush. It is after the manner of Indiana's "true procedure." We can easily understand Companion Swain's lack of enthusiasm for the "virtual" after he had been made an actual:

"The writer of this, years ago, before he was qualified as an actual Past Master, was once called upon to confer the degree upon an elected Master, because no actual Past Master could be found to do it. We were never hauled up for it, but have always considered it illegitimate. On another occasion we gave the Mark and Past Master's degree in one night, on an elected candidate, because he was also an elected Master, and wished to be prepared for installation."

And yet the thing is permitted to exist. Canada of course had not reached him, but we shall expect to hear from him next time.

A. J. Wallace, Durand, Grand High Priest.
J. W. Laflin, Milwaukee, Grand Secretary.

Conclusion.

The lines marshalled below represent the vast and powerful army that it has been our privilege to review. Each brigade, commanded and officered by veterans, whose lives have been devoted to an ennobling cause, and the ranks filled by equally zealous comrades who

have come forward to assist in the great and glorious undertaking. When one pauses to reflect that under the standards of the Lord of Hosts there are enrolled over two hundred thousand Royal Arch Masons banded together in the sacred cause of truth, of honor and of mercy, surely it is not too much to expect that so mighty an influence, increasing year after year, will eventually prove under the benediction of the All Wise, All Powerful and Ever Present Being around Whose Throne may we hereafter encircle, a potent factor for the preservation and maintenance of earthly peace.

"A peace is of the nature of a conquest,
For then both parties nobly are subdued,
And neither party loses."

It is a matter for regret that the proceedings of Indian Territory, Minnesota, New Hampshire and South Carolina have not reached us in time to be included in the following list. However, to the Companions there and those with which we have so pleasantly renewed acquaintance, our sincere wish is for a prosperous and happy new year.

PROCEEDINGS REVIEWED.

Alabama	1896	Montana	1897
Arizona	1896	Nebraska	1896
Arkansas	1896	Nevada	1897
California	1897	New Brunswick	1896
Colorado	1886	New Jersey	1897
Connecticut	1897	New York	1897
Delaware	1897	North Carolina	1897
District of Columbia	1886	North Dakota	1897
Florida	1897	Nova Scotia	1896-97
Georgia	1897	Ohio	1896-97
Illinois	1896	Oregon	1897
Indiana	1896-97	Pennsylvania	1896
Iowa	1897	Quebec	1897
Kansas	1897	Rhode Island	1896-97
Kentucky	1896	South Dakota	1897
Louisiana	1897	Tennessee	1897
Maine	1896	Texas	1896
Maryland	1896	Vermont	1897
Massachusetts	1896-97	Virginia	1896
Michigan	1897	Washington	1897
Mississippi	1897	West Virginia	1896
Missouri	1897	Wisconsin	1897

Fraternally submitted,

GEORGE J. BENNETT,
Chairman

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